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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the document is tc identify ways in which Naticnal Crime Survey (NCS) data can be used by criminal justice researchers and programs. The report prcvides an cverview of the Application of Victimization Survey Results Prcject, describes the analytic reports ccmpiled by the prcject staff, and cites the kinds of systematic information the data car prcvide. The victimization research project is funded by the Naticral Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service cf the Iaw Enfcrcement Assistance Administration. The major cbjective cf the prcject is to examine those data generated by the Naticral Crime Survey which are particularly relevant for criminal justice programs. Information which has been particularly useful to the criminal justice ccmmunity relates to topics such as attitudes tcward the pclice, fear of criminal victimization, characteristics of victims and offenders, consequences of crimes to victims, the failure cf victims tc report crimes to the pclice, and reascns giver by victims fcr nct notifying the pclice. The document relates the histcrical rccts of victimization, surveys census pilot studies, prcvides an cverview of Naticnal Crime Surveys conducted since 1973, discusses availability and analyses of NCS data, and outlines an ongcing study dealing with attitudes of 12- and 13-year-old interviewees tcward victimization. The ccnclusicn is that NCS does provide a major new scurce cf data about certain types cf crime: rape, rcbbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and vehicle theft. This new infcrmaticr shculd ccntribute significantly to answering planning and research questicrs that have been unanswerable due tc lack cf suitable data. The appendix presents copies cf attitude and interview questicnnaires. (Author/DE)

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Applications of the National Crime Survey Victimization and Attitude Data

ANALYTIC REPORT SD-VAD-4

An Introduction to the National Crime Survey

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IMPORTANT

We have provided an evaluation form at the end of this publication. It will assist us in improving future reports if you complete and return it at your convenience. It is a self-mailing form and needs no stamp.

The APPLICATION OF VICTIMIZATION SURVEY RESULTS Project is funded by the Statistics Division of the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. This research project has as its aim the analysis of the data generated by the National Crime Survey studies of criminal victimization undertaken for LEAA by the United States Bureau of the Census. More specifically, this research project, as its title suggests, encourages the use of the National Crime Survey data to examine issues that have particular relevance for *applications* to the immediate needs of operational criminal justice programs.

This aim is pursued in two ways. First, the project staff has conducted a series of regional seminars on the history, nature, uses, and limitations of the National Crime Survey victimization data. These seminars, attended by criminal justice planners, crime analysts, researchers, and operating agency personnel, have served as a useful exchange for disseminating information about the LEAA/Census victimization surveys and for soliciting from attendees suggestions for topics that they would like to see explored with the available victimization survey data. Second, based on these suggestions and on topics generated by the project staff at the Criminal Justice Research Center, the project staff has undertaken a series of analytic reports that give special attention to applications of the victimization survey results to questions of interest to operational criminal justice programs. This report is one in the analytic series.

The National Crime Survey victimization data provide a wealth of important information about attitudes toward the police, fear of criminal victimization, characteristics of victims, the nature of victimizations, the consequences of crimes to victims, characteristics of offenders, the failure of victims to report crimes to the police, reasons given by victims for not notifying the police, and differences between those victimizations that are and those that are not reported to the police.

The National Crime Survey results make available systematic information the scope and depth of which has not heretofore been available. These

data constitute a vast store of information that can be a substantial utility to the criminal justice community. Knowledge about characteristics of victimized persons, households, and commercial establishments and about when and where victimizations occur have particular relevance for public education programs, police patrol strategies, and environmental engineering. Information on the nature and extent of injury and loss in criminal victimization can provide data necessary for determining the feasibility of, or planning for, programs for restitution and compensation to victims of crime. Information about the level of property recovery after burglaries and larcenies is useful for assessing the need for property identification programs. Knowledge about the levels of nonreporting to the police and about the kinds of victimizations that are disproportionately not reported to the police give an indication of the nature and extent of biases in police data on offenses known.

These are only a few of the areas in which results of victimization survey data have the potential for informing decisionmaking and shaping public policy. It is the aim of this series of analytic reports to explore some of the potential applications of the victimization survey results and to stimulate discussion about both the utility and limitations of such applications.

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CONTENTS

Introduction 11
The Historical Roots of Victimization Surveys 11
The LEAA/Census Pilot Studies 12
Reverse Record Checks 12
Telescoping 14
Reference Period Length 14
Screen Questions 14
Household- versus Self-Respondent 15
National Crime Survey 15
City Samples 15
National Sample 17
City/National Design Similarities 19
Subject Cooperation 21
Quality Control 21
Crime Classification 22
Counting Rules 22
Series Victimizations 23
NCS Attitude Supplement 24
Availability of the NCS Data 24
Analyses of the NCS Data 25
On-Going Study by the Bureau of the Census 26
Interviewing 12- and 13-Year-Old Respondents 26
Effect of the Supplemental Attitude Questionnaire 26
Interviewer Variance Study 26
Analysis of Screen Questions 27
Bounded Interviews and Telescoping 28
Internal Telescoping and Recall Bias 29
Panel Bias Study 31
Conclusions 33

References 55

Appendix A: National Crime Survey Household Interview Questionnaire 35

Appendix B: National Crime Survey Commercial Interview Questionnaire 45

Appendix C: National Crime Surveys, City Surveys, Attitude Questionnaire 51

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1 Proportion of known victims sampled from police files who reported the sampled crime to survey interviewers: Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and San Jose 13

Figure 1 Cities surveyed and reference periods used in the NCS city surveys, by when surveys were conducted..... 16

Figure 2 Illustration of the panel design in the NCS national surveys..... 18

Table 2 Percent of major crimes elicited by specific screening questions, 1975 NCS..... 28

Table 3 Total personal victimization rates for bounded and unbounded samples in NCS..... 30

Table 4 Total property victimization rates for bounded and unbounded samples in NCS..... 30

Figure 3 Percentage of total personal incidents by month of recall and whether or not the incident was reported to the police, United States, June 1973 through June 1975..... 32

Table 5 Number and percentage of total personal incidents by month of recall and whether or not the incident was reported to the police, United States, June 1973 through June 1975..... 33

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY

Introduction

IN THE UNITED STATES, crime statistics have historically been generated as a by-product of administrative data collected by operational criminal justice agencies, primarily the police. Only recently, through victimization surveys, have attempts been made to generate, independently of operating criminal justice agencies, any statistics about the nature and extent of crime. In some very fundamental respects, victimization surveys differ from police statistics. In data collection programs like the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program, an attempt is made to collect a limited number of data elements about all crimes of interest that are known by the police to have occurred. Because the volume of crime is so large and because the voluntary cooperation of so many police departments is required, it is not feasible to collect more than a very few data elements about each event. In addition, again because of the volume of crime, the data are collected in summary "tally" form. In victimization surveys on the other hand, extensive information is collected about each victimization. This is possible because victimization surveys make an important tradeoff. rather than attempting to collect a few basic elements about all victimizations, they collect a wide variety of data elements about a *representative sample* of victimizations. Thus, police statistics on offenses and victimization survey data are complementary: each has some strengths that the other lacks and each has some weaknesses for which the other compensates. The most important question is not simply, which source of data is better but rather which source of data is better for what purpose? For a variety of reasons, which will be discussed below, it is clear that victimization data can never replace police statistics. The challenge, therefore, is in finding ways for official data and victimization survey data to complement each other so that each source of data can be used to answer questions that the other cannot.

This report is not meant to be a guide for the effective use of victimization survey data. The purpose, rather, is to familiarize the reader with the background, methods, limitations, and current status of the massive victimization survey program now being conducted by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Historical Roots of Victimization Surveys

In victimization surveys, representative samples of the general population are asked to report to survey interviewers any crimes that they have suffered during the reference period, typically the 6- or 12-month period preceding the interview. The first nationwide victimization surveys in the United States were sponsored by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (Biderman, Johnson, McIntyre, and Weir, 1967; Reiss, 1967; Ennis, 1967). Of the three victimization surveys sponsored by the President's Commission, the most widely known is the national survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (Ennis, 1967). In this survey, interviews were conducted in 10,000 households (containing 33,000 eligible persons) in the continental United States. In each household, a knowledgeable household respondent was asked a series of short "screen" questions[1] about victimizations that might have been suffered by any member of the household. When a household

[1]For example, "Were you or was anyone in the household in a fist fight or attacked in any way by another person—including another household member—within the last 12 months?" (Ennis, 1967:A5).

11

respondent reported that a household member had been a victim of one of the included crimes, the victim was personally interviewed. This national study indicated that the estimated rate of victimization for index crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft) was more than twice the rate indicated by the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Despite this, the 33,000 respondents included in the sample reported to survey interviewers only 1 murder, 14 rapes, 31 robberies, 71 aggravated assaults, 309 larcenies, and 68 auto thefts (Ennis, 1967:108). Thus, serious crimes—even when measured by a victimization survey—are statistically rare phenomena. This statistical rarity of serious criminal victimizations has three crucial and interrelated implications. First, in order to generate reliable estimates of serious criminal victimizations, it is necessary to use massive samples of respondents. Second, these large sample requirements have the effect of making such surveys very expensive. Third, the large sample size requirement and the concommitant expense mean that it is simply not economical to use victimization surveys to make estimates either for small areas, such as groups of census tracts or at frequent intervals (Garofalo, 1977b). In light of these constraints, it is apparent that victimization surveys will not displace police statistics. They are simply too costly for that. Yet, victimization survey results can provide critical information about victimization experiences and risks of victimization that is nowhere else available.

The victimization surveys conducted for the President's Commission suggested that the technique had promise for adding a new dimension to crime statistics. Despite this promise, there were a number of important methodological questions that required investigation before the method could be widely used. Perhaps the most important question was that of how likely respondents were to report crimes that they suffered to survey interviewers. In addition, it was necessary to investigate whether screen questions could be answered accurately by a knowledgeable household respondent for all household members or whether each household member would have to be asked the screen questions personally. Such concerns as the feasibility of mail interviews, questionnaire wording, the ability to reliably classify victimizations reported to survey interviewers in a UCR format, and the optimal length of the reference period were all concerns raised in the studies sponsored by the President's Commission; each of these had to be investigated before the use of victimization surveying could be more widely undertaken.

The LEAA/Census Pilot Studies

Shortly after the publication of the President's Commission's victimization survey results, the Statistics Division of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) was formed. Discussions were held with the U.S. Bureau of the Census concerning the feasibility of conducting a series of methodological tests to study the problems in undertaking a number of victimization surveys. Several important pre-tests were conducted, beginning in 1970, in Washington, D.C. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970a); Baltimore (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970b); San Jose, California (LEAA, 1972; LEAA, 1974a); Dayton, Ohio (LEAA, 1974a); Cleveland/Akron, Ohio (Dodge and Turner, 1971); and as part of the Census Bureau's Quarterly Household Surveys (Dodge and Turner, 1971).

Reverse Record Checks

These pre-tests in 1970 and 1971 answered many of the important concerns raised by the President's Commission's studies. Chief among these was the extent to which *known victims* selected from police files would fail to report their victimizations to survey interviewers. In reverse record checks, victims in police files were sampled and subsequently interviewed by Census interviewers. Under ideal conditions, such studies are conducted so that neither the victim nor the interviewer is aware that the respondent has been selected for study from police files. This condition is very difficult to achieve in practice, and none of the three reverse record checks conducted by the Census Bureau attained the ideal. However, the San Jose study was methodologically the most adequate of the three.

Table 1 shows that in the three studies conducted in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and San Jose, 982 victims from police files were interviewed by Census interviewers. When these respondents were asked whether they had been victimized during a specified number of months preceding the interview, more than 70 percent of those known to have been victims of assault, robbery, rape, burglary, or larceny, reported their known victimizations to survey interviewers. As can be seen from the table, the proportion of known victims who reported their

12

TABLE 1 Proportion of known victims sampled from police files who reported the sampled crime to survey interviewers: Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and San Jose

	Washington, D.C.			Baltimore			San Jose			Three-city total		
	Number of completed interviews	Offense reported to interviewers		Number of completed interviews	Offense reported to interviewers		Number of completed interviews	Offense reported to interviewers		Number of completed interviews	Offense reported to interviewers	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Assault	54	35	65	99	36	36	81	39	48	234	94	47
Robbery	57	52	91	103	78	76	80	61	76	240	191	80
Rape	–	–	–	–	–	–	45	30	67	45	30	67
Burglary	68	60	88	77	66	86	104	94	90	249	220	88
Larceny	47	36	77	83	62	75	84	68	81	214	166	78
Total crimes[a]	226	183	81	362	242	67	394	292	74	982	701	71

[a]These are simple sums across the individual crimes. However, crimes were not sampled in proportion to the occurrence in police files and hence, as an overall measure, the "total crimes" category gives more weight to rare crimes than their rates of occurrence deserve in a statistical sense.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census (1970a: Table C)
U.S. Bureau of the Census (1970b: Table 1)
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (1972: Table C)

victimizations to the interviewers varied substantially depending on the type of crime; nearly 9 out of 10 burglary victims but fewer than half of the assault victims mentioned the known victimization to survey interviewers.

These pretests suggested at least two reasons for the failure of victims to report known victimizations to survey interviewers. First, there was evidence of forgetting. For example, in the San Jose test, it was found that 81 percent of the victimizations known to have occurred 1 to 3 months prior to the interview but only 67 percent of those known to have occurred 10 to 12 months prior to the interview were reported by victims to survey interviewers. Second, there was some indication that in face-to-face personal crimes, especially rape, victimizations committed by persons known to the victim were less likely to be mentioned to survey interviewers than were victimizations committed by strangers; the respective percentages were 54 versus 84 for rape, 69 versus 80 for robbery, 50 versus 56 for aggravated assault, and 43 versus 50 for simple assault.

Telescoping

In addition to victims forgetting that victimizations had occurred or deliberately failing to mention a victimization to the interviewer, another source of bias occurred, telescoping. Forward telescoping is a memory distortion in which victimizations that occurred prior to the beginning of the reference period are "telescoped" forward into the reference period. In the Washington, D.C. pretest (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970a:9), a reverse record check revealed that about 20 percent of the victimizations that were shown in police records as having occurred *prior* to the beginning of the reference period were reported by victims as having occurred within the reference period. Such forward telescoping, of course, inflates the estimated number of victimizations reported as occurring in the reference period and serves partially to offset the underestimates that result from forgetting and other biases. As will be seen later in this report, a technique known as "bounding" is used in the National Crime Survey (NCS) national surveys to deal with the problem of forward telescoping.

Reference Period Length

One of the most critical questions facing the architects of a victimization surveying program is the length of the reference period to be used. The longer the reference period, the larger the number of victimizations that will have occurred within it. Use of a 3-month reference period requires approximately four times the sample size to make estimates with statistical precision equal to those of a survey that uses a 12-month reference period. However, the longer the reference period, the greater the potential that memory biases such as forgetting events entirely, forgetting the details of victimizations, and telescoping will detract from the results. Clearly, then, the choice of reference period length is a most important decision. In order to select the optimal reference period length for subsequent surveys, the reverse record check results were carefully studied by LEAA. In the San Jose reverse record check study (LEAA, 1972: Appendix Table 4), it was found that for a 6-month reference period the proportion of victims who reported their victimizations to survey interviewers was 76 percent, compared with 74 percent for a 12-month reference period. Thus, for simply determining whether a victimization occurred, a 6-month reference period is not sufficiently superior to a 12-month reference period to justify the added costs of doubling the sample size. However, for correctly recalling the quarter in which the victimization occurred, a shorter reference period is substantially better. Of the known victims in San Jose who reported the victimization in police files to the interviewers, the victimization was reported as having occurred in the proper quarter 84 percent of the time for those occurring within 3 months of the interview but only 45 percent of the time for victimizations occurring 10 to 12 months prior to the interview. Thus, to the extent that it is important for victims to be able to report accurately the quarter in which the victimization occurred, a shorter reference period is demonstrably better than a longer period.

Screen Questions

The early pilot studies conducted jointly by LEAA and the Bureau of the Census also addressed the question of how screen questions were phrased. On the basis of pretests, it was determined that best results were obtained when screen questions were asked without reference to legal concepts such as robbery or burglary but instead were phrased in everyday language. In addition, it was found that a long series of short screen questions produced better results than did a few broad questions. As shown in

Appendix A, a total of 18 specific household and individual screen questions plus 2 generic screen questions appear in the National Crime Survey household questionnaire currently in use. In the San Jose pilot test, it was found in 84 percent of the cases that the detailed questions that interviewers asked whenever there was a positive response to a screen question were sufficient to categorize the crimes reported by known victims in the same legal category as had the police (LEAA, 1972; Table K and Appendix Table 3).

It is also important to note that in 1971 a test was made of the feasibility of mailing the screen questionnaires to households and having each adult household member complete and return by mail the screen question form. These mail respondents were found to report fewer positive answers than a control group with whom personal interviews were conducted (Turner, 1972). On the basis of these results, it was decided that personal interviews with self-respondents were preferable.

Household- versus Self-Respondent

In conjunction with the President's Commission's national survey discussed briefly above, it was noted that screen questions for each member of the household were answered by a knowledgeable household respondent; only if a positive response was given by the household respondent was the relevant individual victim personally interviewed. This method of having all screen questions answered by a single individual is known as the household-respondent method; when each household member answers his or her own screen questions, the procedure is referred to as the self-respondent method. The pilot work sponsored by the President's Commission had discovered that when the household-respondent method was used, household-respondents answered a substantially higher proportion of screen questions positively for themselves than for other household members (Biderman, 1967:32). Despite this indication that the household-respondent method would undercount the victimizations of non-household-respondents, the national survey sponsored by the President's Commission used this technique.

In the San Jose/Dayton study (LEAA, 1974a), an experiment was conducted in which a random half of the 11,000 households studied were assigned to either a household-respondent or a self-respondent method. In the former, one individual in the household answered screen questions for all eligible household members and in the latter, each eligible household member answered the screen questions personally. The self-respondent method yielded twice as many reports of robberies, 50 percent more reports of aggravated assaults, and 20 percent more reports of rapes (LEAA, 1974a:36). Thus, it is clear that the household-respondent method substantially underestimates the number of victimizations that occurred during the reference period.

The methodological refinements in instruments and procedures that resulted from these early pilot studies are more extensive than those reviewed here.[2] The aim of this section has been to highlight some of these pretests in order to convey a sense of the methodological developments and refinements that preceded the implementation of the LEAA/Census Bureau national and city victimization surveys. As will be apparent below, the pretest results had a substantial impact on the design of the subsequent surveys.

National Crime Survey

The National Crime Survey (NCS) refers to victimization surveys designed in accord with the objectives specified by LEAA and conducted by the Bureau of the Census. These surveys commenced in 1972, following the pilot work undertaken by LEAA/Census during the 1970-1972 period. The NCS encompasses two distinct sets of surveys, those conducted within selected American cities and those conducted on a national basis. Because the city surveys and the national survey have such fundamental differences in design, each of them will be discussed separately.

City Samples

Figure 1 shows the cities that were surveyed between 1972 and 1975: 8 cities in 1972, 5 in 1973, 13 cities in 1974, and then the 8 and the 5 cities surveyed in 1972-73 were reinterviewed in 1975. Thus, a total of 26 different cities, 13 of which were surveyed twice, were studied.

In each of these cities, a representative probability sample of housing units was selected for study. The samples were drawn from the 20 percent sample tapes of lists of housing units as determined by the 1970 census. Before sample selection, the housing units that were occupied in 1970 were sorted into 100 strata according to tenure (owned or rented),

[2]For a detailed discussion, see Hindelang (1976:Chapter 3).

FIGURE 1 Cities surveyed and reference periods used in the NCS city surveys

TIME OF SURVEYS	CITIES SURVEYED	REFERENCE PERIOD *
July 1972 Nov. 1972	Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Newark, Portland, St. Louis	July 1971 — Oct. 1972
Jan. 1973 Mar. 1973	Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia	Jan. 1972 — Feb. 1973
Jan. 1974 Mar. 1974	Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Oakland, Pittsburgh, San Diego, San Francisco, Washington, D.C.	Jan. 1973 — Feb. 1974
Jan. 1975 Mar. 1975	Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia	Jan. 1974 — Feb. 1975
May 1975	Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Newark, Portland, St. Louis	Mar. 1974 — Apr. 1975

*The reference period was 12 months for each respondent beginning in the month prior to the month in which the interview was conducted. Because the interviews occurred over a period of several months, the reference periods for respondents in each group of cities do not correspond exactly.

household size (five categories), household income (five categories), and race of the head of household (white or all other). Four additional sampling strata were established for housing units that were vacant at the time of the 1970 census, and a single stratum incorporated group quarters (e.g., boarding houses, college dormitories). In addition, in order to include housing units that were constructed after the 1970 census, a sample of new construction building permits authorized since January 1970 in each city was drawn. Thus, the combined list of housing units was up-to-date at the time of sample selection. In *each* city, interviews were conducted in about 10,000 households with about 22,000 eligible respondents who were 12 years of age or older.

Probability samples of businesses are also surveyed in the NCS. In contrast to the selection of housing units for the city samples, (by *type* of housing unit), businesses in each city were selected on an areal basis. That is, each city was divided into geographic segments, and the businesses within the segments were enumerated. Businesses were then selected from each segment. Most types of businesses were eligible to be sampled, but there were some exceptions. Most notable among the exceptions were: (a) "Federal, state and local government installations, offices, etc." (except government owned liquor stores and transportation establishments), (b) "Farms or other agricultural operations unless there was a definite business establishment such as the sales office for a nursery on the farm," and (c) "Nonrecognizable businesses such as those in private homes with no outside indication such as a sign in the yard or window indicating that a business was conducted on the premises" (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1976:356). Nonrecognizable businesses, however, were eligible to be sampled in the household portion of the NCS. The number of businesses surveyed ranged from about 1,000 to 5,000, depending on the size of the city.

For households, persons, and businesses in the city surveys, respondents were asked to report on certain types of victimizations that they may have suffered during the 12 months preceding the interview.

National Sample

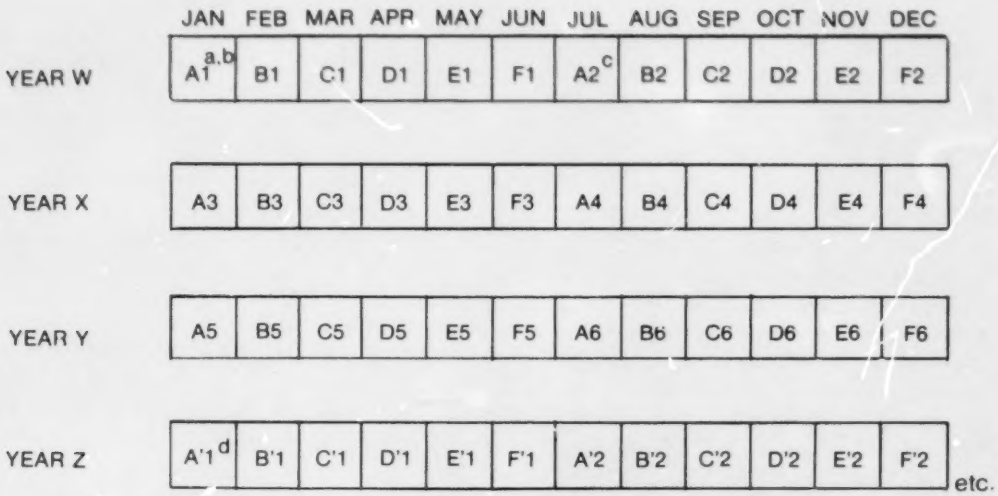
The design of the national surveys was quite different from the design of the city surveys. In the national surveys, both housing units and businesses were selected on the basis of stratified multistage cluster sampling. Because of the complexity involved in the national sample selection procedures, national sampling will not be discussed in this report; the reader interested in the technical details should consult the survey documentation compiled by the Bureau of the Census (U.S. Bureau of the Census, undated).

The total sample size interviewed for the national surveys is about 60,000 households containing about 136,000 individuals and about 15,000 businesses (increased to about 50,000 in July 1975). However, the total interviewed sample is composed of six independently selected subsamples of about 10,000 households with 22,000 individuals and 2,500 businesses (increased to more than 8,000 in July 1975); each subsample is interviewed in successive months. In Figure 2, the procedure is illustrated.[3] In January of Year W, 10,000 households, 22,000 individuals, and 8,000 businesses are interviewed. In the following month—and in each of the next four succeeding months—an independent probability sample of the same size is interviewed. In July, the housing units and business units originally interviewed in January are revisited and the interviews are repeated; likewise, the original February sample units are revisited in August, the March units in September, etc. Each time they are interviewed in the national surveys, respondents are asked about victimizations that they may have suffered during the 6 months preceding the month of interview.

Thus, the national surveys are conducted using a panel design. There are, however, several features unique to this particular panel design. First, as already noted, interviewing of the total sample is spread out over a 6-month period, with one-sixth of the respondents interviewed each month. Second, the panel consists of *addresses*. Interviewers return to the same housing and business units every 6 months. If the family or business contacted during the last interview cycle has moved, the new occupants are interviewed. If the unit no longer exists or is condemned, it is dropped from the sample, but new units are added to the sample periodically. For household units this is accomplished by a continuing sampling of new construction permits; new business units are added to the samples as they appear in the sampling segments during each month's enumeration. No attempt is made to trace families or

[3]Figure 2 simplifies the interviewing procedure somewhat by only showing its operation after the national survey has become completely operational. The procedure was more complex during the first year of the survey. For more detail, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, undated.

FIGURE 2 Illustration of the panel design in the NCS national surveys


JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
YEAR W
A1 a,b B1 C1 D1 E1 F1 A2 c B2 C2 D2 E2 F2
YEAR X
A3 B3 C3 D3 E3 F3 A4 B4 C4 D4 E4 F4
YEAR Y
A5 B5 C5 D5 E5 F5 A6 B6 C6 D6 E6 F6
YEAR Z
A'1 d B'1 C'1 D'1 E'1 F'1 A'2 B'2 C'2 D'2 E'2 F'2
etc.

[a] The letter designates a particular group of housing and business units; the number indicates the first, second, third, etc., interviewer visit to the unit.

[b] In addition to the regular interviews, unbounded interviewing begins with one-sixth of a new monthly sample of housing units.

[c] New housing units begin to replace units in the original sample; one-sixth of the housing units are replaced in each successive interview wave (no provision is made for replacement of business units).

[d] All of the original housing units have been replaced; unbounded interviewing begins with one-sixth of another new monthly sample of housing units.

19

businesses that have moved.[4] Third, housing units in the panel are visited a maximum of seven times, after which they are rotated out of the panel and replaced by a new, independent probability sample; maximum time in the sample for any housing unit, then, is 3 years.[5] There is no provision for the rotation of sampled business units.

Another difference between the city and national surveys is that the latter use what are called *bounded interviews*. Bounded interviews are designed to eliminate, as much as possible, the problem of respondents telescoping into the reference period victimizations that occurred prior to the beginning of the reference period. This is accomplished in the panel design by providing the interviewer with a summary of the victimizations reported by the respondent during the interview conducted six months prior to the current interview. If the respondent reports a victimization in the current interview that is similar to one reported in the previous interview, the interviewer determines whether the event is the same one that was reported in the earlier period, and, if so, the event is excluded from the current interview record.[6]

Obviously, bounded interviews cannot be conducted in housing and business units that are initially entering the panel. It was noted earlier that housing units remain in the panel for 3 years (seven interviews). The first 6 months of interviewing produces unbounded data that is not used to estimate the extent of vicitimization. Thus, the first interviews with panel members are used only to provide bounding information for subsequent interviews. Figure 2 illustrates how the bounding and rotation procedures are handled in the household portion of the national surveys. In Figure 2, the 10,000 household and 8,000 business interviews conducted in January of Year W are assumed to be bounded. In that same month, unbounded interviewing begins with one-sixth of a new monthly sample of housing units; unbounded interviews are conducted with similar samples in February, March, and so forth. At A2 in Figure 2 (July of Year W) the one-sixth of a monthly sample that had unbounded interviews in January is rotated into the main sample and one-sixth of the old sample rotates out. This process continues so that by January of Year Z, all of the housing units that had bounded interviews in January of Year W have been rotated out of the sample and have been replaced by new units. In the fully operational national panel design, then, unbounded interviews are being conducted every month for a one-sixth monthly sample of housing units that will be rotated into the panel 6 months later.

Three major design differences between the national and the city surveys (panel versus non-panel design, 6- versus 12-month reference period, bounded versus unbounded interviews) have been discussed. These design differences reflect differences in the aims of the two sets of surveys. In the national surveys, the major interest was in the panel aspect of the survey, specifically in measuring *changes* in rates and patterns of victimization over time. In order to do this, it was necessary to have an on-going survey in which the reference period was sufficiently short to permit accurate placements of events in time. As indicated in the San Jose study (LEAA, 1972), a 6-month reference period is substantially better than a 12-month period for correctly placing an event in its quarter of occurrence. In addition, bounding the interviews helps to reduce telescoping biases that could distort temporal fluctuations. In the city samples on the other hand, the emphasis was on estimating levels and patterns of victimizations at a given point in time, and thus the added costs of a 6-month reference period and bounding interviews were not seen as necessary.

City/National Design Similarities

To this point, the discussion has focused on differences between the city and the national samples; yet there are many similarities in the instruments and procedures used in the two sets of surveys. In the business and household portions of both the

[4]This procedure does not completely ignore mobile families and businesses. Although no attempt is made to trace families and businesses that move *away* from an address in the sample, a perhaps equally mobile family or business that moves *into* that address would be included in the survey.

[5]While the panel was being instituted, some households were interviewed 8 or 9 times, but now that the panel design is completely operative, the 3-year maximum for time in the sample will be the rule.

[6]Bounding of interviews is used to alleviate forward telescoping problems, but there is also a danger of backward telescoping, the reporting of an event as having occurred in the reference period when it actually occurred after the reference period. Respondents are asked about victimizations that occurred during the 6 months prior to the month of the interview; thus, the reference period for a person interviewed on September 8, for example, is from March 1 to August 31. It is possible that a victimization that occurred between the end of the reference period and the date of the interview could be telescoped backward into the reference period. In the national survey, the Bureau of the Census tries to minimize this problem by conducting each month's interviews during the first 2 weeks of the month so that the time gap between the end of the reference period and the interview date is as short as possible.

city and national surveys, different data collection instruments and procedures were used. The crimes included in the household portion of the surveys are the household crimes of burglary, larceny of property not on the victim's person, and motor vehicle theft and the personal crimes of rape, robbery, assault, and larceny from the person. The crimes included in the business portion of the surveys are business burglary and business robbery.

In both the city and the national surveys, households, persons, and businesses are selected on a probability basis. Therefore, estimates can be made of victimizations occurring in the populations from which the samples are drawn. This is possible because each sampled unit is basically given the same initial probability of selection and can be weighted accordingly. To give a simple example, if one out of ten persons in a population is selected to be surveyed, each surveyed person is given a weight of ten; the information provided by that person counts for that individual plus nine other individuals in the population who were not sampled. Several other, smaller weighting factors were also applied to the sample data. As will be described later, for example, adjustments were applied for households, persons, and businesses that were sampled but not interviewed. Attempts were also made to bring the population estimates from the victimization surveys into as close a correspondence as possible with independent estimates of the national and cities populations.[7] Because probability sampling methods were used in the NCS, any estimates of population characteristics that are derived from weighting the sample data will be reliable within certain definable limits of error. The limits are stated in probability terms by the standard error of the estimate computed from the sample data.[8]

In the household portion of the surveys, each household member 12 years of age or older was eligible to be interviewed. Within each household, a knowledgeable adult was designated to answer a series of background questions about the household (see Appendix A): whether the family owned or was renting its living quarters (question 6); family income (question 10); number of household members (question 11); and so on. In addition, the household respondent answered screen questions about victimizations for which the entire household could be construed to have been the victim—burglary, motor vehicle theft, and larceny from the household premises (questions 29 to 35). Each individual household member 14 years of age or older was personally interviewed about victimizations he or she may have suffered. Proxy interviews with a knowleugeable adult household member were conducted for household members who were 12 or 13 years of age at the time of the interview.[9] Personal background questions (questions 17 to 28) as well as personal screen questions designed to elicit reports of rape, robbery, assault, and larceny from the person (questions 36 to 48) were asked for all household members 12 years of age or older.

For the businesses included in the surveys, a person knowledgeable about the affairs of the business (usually the owner, manager, or accountant) was identified. The business respondent, like the household respondent, reported on background questions such as how long the business had been at its current address, annual income, etc. (questions 2 to 8 in Appendix B). In addition, this respondent answered screen questions about any robberies or burglaries that the business may have experienced during the reference period (questions 10 to 15).

For household, business, and individual respondents, the entire list of screen questions was asked before the details corresponding to any positively answered screen questions were collected. This procedure was followed in order to avoid "motivational fatigue," a phenomenon reported by Biderman et al. in the first pilot study for the President's Commission. In that study, it was noted that when the details of the incident were collected immediately after each "yes" answer to a screen question, fewer screen questions were answered positively than when the entire list of screen questions was asked before any details were gathered. It was hypothesized that the large number of detailed incident questions asked immediately after any positive response to a screen question dampened the respondent's motivation to respond "yes" on subsequent screen questions. To avoid this problem in the NCS, all of the screen questions are asked before the details for any positively answered question are gathered.

[7]The statistical manipulation of weights assigned to each respondent is very complex. For details, for example, U.S. Bureau of the Census (1976).

[8]For details concerning how standard errors were computed for the NCS data, see the Bureau of the Census survey documentation (e.g., U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1976). For illustrations of how standard errors are applied to the survey estimates, see Hindelang (1976) or any of LEAA's NCS publications (e.g., LEAA, 1976a or 1976b).

[9]Proxy respondents were also used for household members who were too ill (or otherwise disabled) to answer questions personally, and for members who were away from the household temporarily and not expected to return during the period in which the interviews were being conducted.

Subject Cooperation

The issue of motivational fatigue raises the general question of the extent to which selected respondents cooperate with the survey. Overall, the response rate is very good. For example, in the 13 cities surveyed in 1975, at least one interview was conducted in 96 percent of the selected housing units that fell within the scope of the survey. Furthermore, in these households, 99 percent of the eligible individual respondents were, in fact, interviewed. In the earlier city samples, and in the national sample, the cooperation rate was similarly high. The cooperation rate among businesses surveyed has remained at about 98 percent in both the city and national surveys.

The very high rate of cooperation with the NCS is attributable to the Bureau of the Census and the care with which contact is made and interviewing conducted. Potential respondents are first contacted by mail and told, in broad terms, about the survey and that they will be contacted shortly by a Census interviewer. The interviewers appear shortly thereafter at the selected housing unit and further explain the survey. As necessary, interviewers make appointments to call back at the household to conduct interviews with any eligible household members who may not have been available for interviewing during the initial visit.

To correct for cases in which eligible persons, households, or businesses were not interviewed, noninterview adjustment factors are applied to the sample data. There are three types of noninterview situations: no interview is conducted for an eligible business; no individuals within an eligible household are interviewed; some, but not all, eligible respondents within a particular household are interviewed. The basic approach to noninterview adjustments involves increasing the weights given to interviewed cases that are similar (to the extent that can be determined from available information) to the noninterviewed cases. For example, the adjustments for noninterviewed households in the city surveys were applied within the strata from which the sample of households was selected; thus the weights given to interviewed households in a particular tenure/family size/income/race stratum would be increased to the extent that other sampled households *in the same stratum* did not result in an interview. In the national household survey, noninterview adjustments are made on the basis of geographic area of residence and race of the household head. In the business portions of the city and national surveys, noninterview adjustments were applied within type of business category; in addition, geographic area was taken into consideration in the national business survey.[10]

Quality Control

The Bureau of the Census is concerned not only with having as high a proportion of the eligible respondents as possible cooperate with the survey but also with ensuring that the quality of the data collected is as high as possible. Concern with quality control is apparent in several ways. Interviewers are trained in the following manner: they study manuals on all phases of the interviewing operations and take several days of classroom training; their initial interviews are then observed by a supervisor who gives them feedback on any errors that are noted in their performance. Office staff review all incoming interview schedules for consistency and completeness; in the event of inconsistencies or incompleteness, the respondents are telephoned or revisited by the interviewer. Interviewers are further aware that their work is monitored via an on-going reinterview/recheck procedure during which supervisory staff visit a certain percentage of the respondents who have been previously interviewed. For some of these respondents an abbreviated version of the interview is repeated (reinterviews), and for others, critical parts of the interviewing procedures are reexamined (rechecks).[11] Any discrepancies are resolved and the interviewer is retrained or, if necessary, replaced.

Quality control extends beyond actual data collection to data processing. This processing at a central location includes a clerical edit in which the submitted materials are again checked for consistency and completeness. The data are then keyed into a machine readable format. The work of all key-to-tape operators is initially verified on a 100 percent basis until it is sufficiently accurate; this work is subsequently monitored on a periodic basis, and any recurring errors are resolved. Finally, an extensive computer edit process tests for internal consistency of the data: identified errors are checked and corrected where possible or imputed where necessary; if discrepancies cannot be resolved in this fashion, missing data flags are coded in place of the erroneous values.

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[10]Details of the noninterview weighting factors are available in the survey documentation (e.g., U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1976).

[11]For discussion of the design and results of the reinterview program, see Graham (1976a and 1976b).

Crime Classification

As noted in the introduction, the data collected in the NCS program differ substantially from those collected in the UCR program in several important respects. One of the major differences is that the UCR data are forwarded to the FBI in summary or tally form, whereas the NCS data are maintained as individual records. That is, in the NCS data, for each victimization reported, the circumstances surrounding the victimization—e.g., victim and offender characteristics, where and when the victimization occurred, the consequences of the victimization and whether it was reported to the police—are all recorded on a single record. These raw data can be coded and analyzed in a variety of ways, according to the needs of the analyst. One important consequence of this flexibility is that criminal events can be classified according to a variety of classification schemes in addition to the UCR classification scheme.

The ways in which the raw NCS data can be used to classify events can be illustrated with an example from the UCR. The UCR criteria for robbery are as follows:

> Robbery . . . takes place in the presence of the victim. The victim, who usually is the owner or person having custody of the property, is directly confronted by the perpetrator and is threatened with force or fear that force will be used. Robbery involves a theft or larceny but aggravated by the element of force or threat of force (U.S. Department of Justice, 1974:14).

As can be seen in the incident report section of Appendix A, each of the elements required to categorize events according to these criteria are available. The detailed incident questionnaire ascertains whether the victim was present when the event occurred (interviewer check-item B), whether there was a completed or attempted theft (question 13), whether the offender had a weapon, or used force or threat of force to obtain (or attempt to obtain) the victim's property (question 7). Each of these conditions can be tested by a computer program and victimizations that meet the requisite conditions are categorized as robberies. Similarly, the definitions for aggravated and simple assault, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft can be tested. Thus, all victimizations can be classified by a computer program as the appropriate UCR crime. Neither the victim nor the interviewer has to know the legal criteria for various crimes. The victim simply has to provide the details of what happened during the event (without reference to any legal concepts); the computer program then categorizes the event according to the UCR or any other definitions for which the requisite data elements are present.

Counting Rules

The Uniform Crime Reports counting rules require that for some types of crime the number of victims be counted and for others, the number of incidents be counted. For the crimes of homicide, rape, and assault, the UCR counts one crime for each victim. In robbery, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, one incident is counted regardless of the number of victims. Thus, there is a distinction between victimizations (the number of *persons* victimized) and incidents. According to UCR rules, in the crime of robbery the number of incidents is counted. Thus, if a robber enters a bar and robs the cash register receipts and a wallet from the bartender and personal property from five patrons, the UCR counts only one robbery; there was a single incident of robbery in which there were six victimizations. The NCS data can be counted as either incidents or victimizations. If desired, the UCR rules of counting victimizations for rape and assault, and incidents for the remaining crimes can be followed.

In the NCS published data (e.g., LEAA, 1976a; 1976b; 1976c) rates have generally been shown as *victimization* rates. Rates for personal crimes (rape, robbery, assault, and personal larceny) have been shown per 1,000 persons age 12 and over, for household crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft) per 1,000 businesses. Because businesses and households rather than employees or household members are construed to be the victims of business and household crimes, respectively, the differentiation between victimizations and incidents is not relevant for businesses and households. For persons, however, a single incident may involve more than one victim; hence, the differentiation is important. Because rates of victimization are generally presented as a measure of risk of victimization, a rate that takes into account the number of persons victimized (i.e., a victimization rate) seems preferable to one that only takes into account the number of incidents (i.e., an incident rate).

Victimization rates in the published NCS data do not reflect the proportions of persons, households, or businesses that were victimized during the reference period. Because they are computed by dividing the number of victimizations by the number

of units (persons, households, businesses) at risk—regardless of the fact that some victims contribute more than one victimization to the numerator—these victimization rates are not measures of the risk of a distinct person, household, or business being victimized.

As the discussion in this section has shown, there are several different counting rules that can be used with the NCS victimization data. Fortunately, the analyst who has access to the individual NCS data records can select and use the counting rules that are most applicable to the task being performed. Thus, victimization rates can be used to reflect the risk of victimization for various subgroups of the population (e.g., LEAA, 1976a; 1976b; 1976c); an incident-based analysis can be conducted for phenomena, such as weapon use or time and place of occurrence, that are part of a particular event, regardless of the number of victims involved (Hindelang, 1976: Chapter 8); persons, households, and businesses that were not victimized during the reference period can be differentiated from those victimized once, twice, or more times to address issues such as proneness to victimization (Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo, 1977: Chapter 6) or the association between victimization and respondent attitudes (Garofalo, 1977a and 1977c).

Series Victimizations

Collection of the NCS data is based on the premise that respondents can supply the details of each of their victimizations that occurred during the reference period. It is possible that a respondent was victimized in a series of very similar events, perhaps involving the same offender each time, and cannot recall the details of each discrete event. This leads to one of the more troublesome aspects of the NCS household and personal data: the classification of some sets of events as series victimizations.[12] Under certain conditions, NCS interviewers are permitted to fill out just one incident report for a respondent who reports a number of similar victimizations as having occurred during the reference period. The three conditions that must be met are:

(1) The incidents must be very similar in detail.
(2) There must be at least three incidents in a series.
(3) The respondent must not be able to recall dates and other details well enough to report them separately.

The NCS interviewers are further instructed that recording of incidents as series "is *not* to be used for your own convenience but only if necessary, and *as a last resort*" (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1975: D7-2). When a decision is made to classify a set of events as a series victimization, the details about the most recent of the events in the series are recorded on the incident report. Obviously, use of the series classification represents an adaptation of the NCS data collection technique to the reality of imperfect respondent recall.

Series victimizations appear relatively unimportant when viewed as a proportion of total number of incident reports filled out by interviewers. Of the more than 37,000 household and personal incident reports collected during the 1973 national survey, only 5.5 percent (about 2,000) involved series victimizations. However, remembering that each series victimization represents at least three events (criterion number 2 above), the proportion of total household and personal victimizations contained in the series incident reports could be quite high (perhaps 20 percent) if each event in the series victimizations was to be counted as one victimization.

Despite their potentially large contribution to the total number of victimizations, series victimizations are inherently ambiguous. The third criterion used in the decision to classify a set of events as a series victimization restricts the use of the series designation to those events about which the respondents does not have a clear recollection. Respondent doubts about *when* the events occurred may indicate that the recall of series victimizations is subject to memory problems, such as telescoping, to a greater extent than is the recall of other victimizations. Furthermore, details of the most recent event in the series are supposed to be recorded on the incident report, but the lack of memory clarity associated with series victimizations casts doubt on the extent to which the recorded details adequately reflect the details of other events in the series.

Because of their ambiguity and because they are disproportionately simple assaults and minor larcenies rather than more serious crimes, series victimizations have been tabulated separately and have been stored on separate data tapes by the Bureau of the Census. This independent treatment of series victimizations also occurs in the NCS publications (e.g., LEAA, 1975a; 1975b; 1976b; 1976c). The problems posed by the presence of series victimizations in the

[12]There are no provisions in the business surveys to classify events as series victimizations, mainly because commercial establishments generally keep records that allow the representative being interviewed to distinguish the details of each robbery or burglary that occurred during the reference period.

NCS have been discussed elsewhere (National Academy of Sciences, 1976), and some analysis has been performed using the series victimizations (Hindelang, 1976: Appendix F; Hindelang, et al., 1977: Chapters 6-9), but ways of overcoming these problems have yet to be devised and implemented.[13]

NCS Attitude Supplement

In conjunction with the NCS city surveys, a supplemental attitude questionnaire was administered to a subgroup of respondents. After the samples for the victimization surveys were selected, a random half of the selected households in each city was designated for interviewing with an attitude questionnaire as well as with the victimization questionnaire. Within each of the households in the half-sample, every member 16 years of age or older was selected for attitude interviewing.

The supplemental attitude questionnaire appears in Appendix C. Paralleling the victimization questionnaire, the attitude instrument has one section of questions for the person designated as household respondent and separate sections for each eligible individual respondent in the household. The household respondent questions deal with topics such as household mobility (e.g., length of time at current address, reasons for leaving old neighborhood), perceptions of neighborhood problems, and where shopping is generally done. The questions for individuals are more numerous and cover a broader range of subjects: the fear of crime, perceptions of crime trends, the behavioral responses to the threat of crime, evaluation of police performance, and so on.

Even a cursory examination of the questionnaire reveals that it is not concerned solely with attitudes. The questionnaire contains a variety of items dealing with opinions, beliefs, and actual behaviors that are relevant to the issue of crime. For that reason, analyses of the data generated by the NCS attitude supplement have taken a number of different approaches and have focused on a variety of issues (Skogan, 1976a; Garofalo, 1977a and 1977c; Hindelang, et al., 1977: Chapters 7-9).

[13]There is some indication that the proportion of incident reports classified as series victimizations tends to decline as interviewers become more proficient. Because of the design of the national surveys, interviewers are employed for longer periods than was the case in the "one-shot" city surveys. Correspondingly, the proportion of series victimizations in the national survey has declined from about 8 percent of all victimizations since interviewing began and has stabilized at about 4 percent of all victimizations; see Daniels, 1974.

There is no attitude supplement currently being used in the national surveys, and neither the city nor the national business surveys have used an attitude supplement. Because the city surveys have been completed and there are no current plans to conduct more city surveys, there are no NCS attitude supplements in use at the present time. Steps have been taken, however, toward complete revision of the attitude instrument so that an attitude supplement can be incorporated into the national surveys at a future date.

Availability of the NCS Data

LEAA and the Bureau of the Census have made substantial efforts to disseminate the NCS data in a variety of forms. The widest dissemination has been achieved through reports prepared by the Census Bureau's Crime Statistics Analysis Staff under interagency agreement with LEAA, which publishes and disseminates the reports (LEAA, 1974b; 1974c; 1975a; 1975b; 1975c; 1976a; 1976b; 1976c; 1976d; 1977). Copies of these reports—as well as other reports that are either planned or in preparation—have been distributed through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and the U.S. Government Printing Office.

A more detailed version of the data from each survey is produced by the Census Bureau in the form of an extensive set of tabulations. The set includes tables dealing with rates and characteristics of the incidents as well as separate groups of tables for series victimizations and for attitude results.[14] Special tabulations of the national data have been made for various types of geographic areas of the nation (e.g., central cities of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, balance of SMSA's and non-SMSA areas) and for the 10 largest States. The tabulations have been distributed, in either hardcopy or microfilm form, to the relevant LEAA-funded State and local planning agencies.[15]

Initially, LEAA and other data users contracted with the Census Bureau to provide data tapes of individual interview records (without respondent

[14]The survey documentation for each survey (e.g., U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1976) provides a description of the tables included in each set of tabulations.

[15]Information about the availability of these tabulations can be obtained by writing: Director, Statistics Division, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, 633 Indiana Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20531.

names or other information that would allow identification of individuals) for particular analytic endeavors. Provisions have now been made for public use distribution of the tapes. Under an LEAA grant, the Data Use and Access Laboratories (DUALabs) has developed a system for modifying the Census Bureau tape format and documentation to facilitate the use of NCS data by researchers and planners. DUALabs can provide complete or partial tape files as well as particular data tabulations at a reasonable cost to the user.[16] Additionally, LEAA is in the process of establishing a National Criminal Justice Data Archive through a grant to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, housed at the University of Michigan. This data archive will be the major repository for national criminal justice statistical data, including the NCS data. The data will be made available to users as tape files or the user may choose to access the data on-line at the University of Michigan via a commercial teleprocessing network.[17]

Analyses of the NCS Data

Increasing availability of the NCS data has begun to result in the appearance of articles, monographs, and books dealing directly with those data and of other works concerned with either victimization surveys in general or with data from surveys other than the NCS. Many of these materials are listed in the bibliography at the end of this report, but in this section, some attention will be given to a few of the categories of materials that have appeared.

First, the series of reports produced by the Census Bureau's Crime Statistics Analysis Staff was mentioned in the preceding section. Those reports present personal, household, and commercial victimization data from each of the cities surveyed as well as from each year in the national surveys. In addition, some of the reports (LEAA, 1976b; 1976c; 1977) deal with changes in the levels and patterns of victimization over time.

Second, the present report is one of a series of analytic reports on NCS victimization and attitude data being produced under an LEAA grant. Six other reports in the series have already been written (Garofalo, 1977a; 1977b; 1977c; Sutton and Garofalo, 1977; Harland 1977; Gibbs, 1977) dealing with topics that range from public attitudes toward the police to the potential costs of national programs to compensate victims of violent crimes. A total of 20 to 25 reports are planned.

Third, a great deal of attention has been given to comparisons between victimization survey results and official crime statistics, particularly the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reports* statistics ("crimes known to the police"). In fact, the initial popular reaction to the survey results was primarily one of dismay at the size of the gap between the number of crimes recalled by survey respondents and the number of crimes recorded in police files. Recent studies, however, have begun to examine the NCS data systematically to determine the reasons people do not report crimes to the police, the differences between crimes that are and are not reported to the police, and the precise nature of the relationship between official crime statistics and the NCS results (Hindelang, 1976; Hindelang and Gottfredson, 1976; Skogan, 1976b; Skogan, 1977; Garofalo, 1977c). Researchers using victimization survey data other than the NCS have also addressed these issues (Hawkins, 1970; Schneider, Burcart, and Wilson, 1975; Schneider, 1975; Howard, 1975).

Fourth, the large-scale and long-term nature of the NCS makes it imperative to continually reevaluate and improve various aspects of the program. With this in mind, LEAA commissioned an evaluation of the program that was conducted by the National Academy of Sciences. The final report of that evaluation (National Academy of Sciences, 1976) contains a far-reaching discussion of many of the problems and potentials of the NCS. Other studies have dealt with the methodology of the NCS or of victimization surveys in general. Topics that have been examined range from the danger of respondents overreporting victimizations (Levine, 1976) to suggestions for decreasing the cost of victimization surveys by using telephone interview techniques (Tuchfarber and Klecka, 1976) to discussions of the problems that accompany attempts by local agencies to use victimization surveys for their own data collection purposes (Skogan, 1975; DuBow and Reed, 1976; Garofalo, 1977b). The Bureau of the Census itself has been performing methodological studies during the course of the National Crime Surveys; the Bureau of the Census findings will be discussed briefly in the next section.

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[16]Readers interested in further information concerning the availability of data tapes can contact DUALabs at 1601 North Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209, (703) 525-1480.

[17]For additional information, contact the Director, Statistics Division, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, 633 Indiana Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20531.

Ongoing Studies by the Bureau of the Census

LEAA has sponsored the continuing efforts of the Bureau of the Census to answer some of the methodological questions that are relevant to the NCS. Seven reports resulting from these efforts are discussed in this section.

Interviewing 12- and 13-Year Old Respondents

When the NCS interviewing procedure was described earlier, it was noted that data for household members less than 14 years of age were gathered by interviewing an adult proxy respondent. The design decision to use the proxy approach was based on two arguments: "that 12 and 13 year olds possibly were too young to give responsible and reliable answers, and that asking sensitive questions about victimization might be distasteful to the child, his parents, or both, and thereby result in a loss of rapport" (Cowan, 1976). But the comparisons between household- and self-respondent methods that were discussed earlier in this report indicate that the self-respondent method is superior for eliciting reports of victimizations.

During the 1974 NCS city surveys, San Francisco was chosen as the site for a preliminary test of the effects of using a proxy respondent for 12- and 13-year-old household members. Half of the 12 and 13 year olds were interviewed by proxy; the others were interviewed directly. The results showed that the direct interviewing method produced significantly higher rates of purely assaultive victimization than did the proxy method. However, the opposite was true for personal theft victimizations having no assaultive component: the proxy interviews produced significantly higher rates than the direct method did. Because of the small sample size (570 interviews), the study was intriguing but not definitive; the only recommendation that could be made was to repeat the study using a larger sample (Cowan, 1976:2).

Effect of the Supplemental Attitude Questionnaire

The NCS attitude questionnaire, as described in an earlier section, was used in a half sample of the households interviewed in the city surveys. Within this half sample, the attitude questionnaire was administered prior to the victimization questionnaire to avoid biasing the attitude responses. But use of the attitude questionnaire resulted in longer interviews with respondents in the attitude half sample, and there was some concern about a possible effect on respondent cooperation.

Using the data from the 13 cities surveyed in 1975, a comparison was made of the victimization rates for the attitude and non-attitude half samples. With few exceptions, significant differences were found in each city. However, the differences were in the opposite direction from what one would expect to result from decreased cooperation: the victimization rates for the attitude half sample were higher than the rates for the other respondents. The tentative conclusion reached was that "asking the attitude questions before the victimization questions had a conditioning effect, whereby the respondent's awareness or memory regarding victimization was stimulated" (Murphy, 1976). Whether or not this stimulation resulted in greater *accuracy* of recall is not known.

Interviewer Variance Study

In survey research, variability in results can derive from a number of sources. One hopes that most of the variability is due to actual differences among respondents—for example, differences among persons and households in the number of victimizations suffered or differences in victimization rates among cities. Other factors, however, can produce variability. For example, differences may be due to the fact that a sample of the population, rather than the entire population, is interviewed. Estimates of sampling variances are routinely produced for the NCS (e.g., LEAA, 1976a: Appendices II and III). But there also may be variability resulting from differences among interviewers in how they conduct interviews.

During the 1975 surveys of the eight Impact Cities, the Census Bureau devised an experiment to test for the amount of variance associated with interviewer differences. Basically, interviewer pairs were formed, and their interview assignment areas were geographically interpenetrated; that is, each member of a pair of interviewers was designated to interview a randomly selected half of the selected housing units within the same assignment area.[18]

The interviewer variance study was too complex to allow a thorough discussion of the results in this

[18]Some deviations from the experimental design did occur during the surveys. See Bailey, Moore and Bailar, 1976.

report; only a summary of the major findings is presented here. The study found that the ratio of interviewer variance to sampling variance: (1) was quite high overall (about .6), but varied considerably across cities, from a high of 1.40 in Newark to a low of .18 in Cleveland; (2) was much higher for rates of assaultive violence with no theft component than for other types of personal victimizations and was higher for larcenies involving property worth less than $50 than for other types of household victimizations; (3) did not indicate that interviewer effects were more prevalent for respondents of any one racial group; and (4) did not indicate that interviewer effects were associated with the sex of the respondent (Bailey, Moore, and Bailer, 1976).

The second finding noted above is certainly consistent with expectations. Larcenies of property worth less than $50 are perhaps the least serious victimizations covered in the surveys; and respondent recollections of those crimes would seem to be particularly sensitive to the variability among interviewers in their skill of establishing rapport and probing for replies. The relatively large interviewer effect associated with purely assaultive crimes may be due to the inherent ambiguity of many assaultive victimizations, especially when they involve friends or relatives as victims and offenders. As the researchers in the interviewer variance study pointed out with respect to assaultive crimes:

> . . . there may have been differences in the method in which NCS interviewers applied the concepts or definitions directly related to a determination of the incidence of assaultive violence without theft. Perhaps the variability among the interviewers may reflect the manner in which they view assaultive violence involving acquaintances or relatives and friends (Bailey, et al., 1976:10).

Analysis of Screen Questions

As noted earlier in this report, the wording and ordering of screen questions was one of the important issues dealt with in designing the NCS questionnaire. In order to determine the performance of the screen questions in the interviews, analyses were conducted on the relationship between responses to particular screen questions and the eventual classifications of the victimizations that respondents reported to interviewers (Dodge, 1975; 1976). The final classification of a victimization as a robbery, assault, or some other crime is accomplished without regard to screen question replies; only the detailed information in the incident report is used to classify victimizations. However, because each screen question is designed to elicit responses about a certain type of crime, there should be some correspondence between the classification of a victimization and the particular screen question that led to the incident report being filled out in the first place. In addition, there was some concern about whether each screen question was eliciting a sufficient number of victimizations to warrant its retention in the questionnaire and about whether the practice of asking only one person in each household—the household respondent—the screen questions for household crimes was resulting in an underreporting of burglaries, larcenies from the household, and vehicle theft.

Based on national survey data about personal and household victimizations that occurred in 1975, Table 2 indicates that there is a great deal of correspondence between what kinds of crimes particular screen questions are intended to deal with and the types of victimizations elicited by the screen questions. The major apparent exceptions are the screen questions that deal with robbery; screen questions 37 and 38 (see Appendix A) led to about half of the incident reports that were eventually classified as robberies. However, robbery contains elements of both theft and force (or threat of force), and most of the remaining reports of robberies were elicited by screen questions dealing with either assault (questions 39 and 41) or personal larcenies involving contact between the victim and offender (question 36). The multifaceted nature of robbery offenses appears to result in recollections about the crime being initiated by questions dealing with any of the constituent elements of the crime.

The other two issues addressed by the study of screen questions were: (1) whether each screen question was eliciting a sufficient number of victimization reports to justify retaining the question, and (2) whether the household screen questions should be asked of all respondents rather than of just the household respondent. With the exception of the two "catch-all" questions (47 and 48) that came at the end of the screening process, only five screen questions (32, 37, 38, 40, and 42) elicited fewer than 2 percent of the victimization reports each. Of those, however, questions 37 and 38 were very important for picking up robbery reports, and questions 40 and 42 were important for eliciting reports of rape and assault. Therefore, it appears that the only screen

TABLE 2 Percent of major crimes elicited by specific screening questions, 1975 NCS[a]

Question number[b]	Total crimes	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Personal larceny with contact	Personal larceny without contact	Burglary	Household larceny	Motor vehicle theft
29	10.7	5.7	3.4	0.8	0.2	0.1	57.4*	1.9	—
30	3.8	0.8	0.5	0.2	—	—	20.5*	0.6	0.1
31	12.9	—	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.9	3.6	47.8*	1.2
32	1.6	—	0.6	—	1.0	2.6*	2.4	0.5	0.1*
34	3.6	—	1.4	—	—	0.7	0.3	0.5	85.4*
35	13.3	—	0.7	—	—	22.7	0.8	16.5*	2.7
Total household screen questions	45.8	6.6	6.8	1.1	1.5	27.9	84.9	67.8	89.4
36	2.1	1.6	9.1	0.1	71.9*	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
37	1.1	2.5	33.6*	0.2	3.0	0.1	—	0.1	—
38	1.0	4.9	22.2*	1.7	4.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	—
39	3.5	19.7*	9.3	29.4*	—	—	—	—	0.2
40	0.9	3.3*	1.2	8.0*	—	—	—	—	—
41	4.9	10.7*	9.5	42.8*	—	0.1	—	—	—
42	1.6	43.4*	1.9	12.5*	0.2	—	0.1	—	—
43	9.5	—	0.3	0.1	0.5	18.0*	0.5	9.0*	0.2
44	14.4	—	2.4	—	6.9	33.6*	2.1	1.6	1.6
45	11.2	0.8	1.4	0.1	5.4	13.1*	9.3	17.2*	2.5
46	2.9	—	1.1	—	4.7	3.8*	1.9	3.0*	4.9
Total individual screen questions	53.0	86.9	92.1	95.0	97.5	71.3	14.1	31.1	9.6
47,48	1.2	6.5	1.1	3.9	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0
Percent from key questions	—	77.0	55.8	92.7	71.9	93.8	77.9	93.5	85.4

*Indicates key questions designed to elicit reports of the crime in the designated column.
[a]Data based on unweighted tallies.
[b]See questionnaire in Appendix A.
Source: Dodge, 1976.

question that could be evaluated as having an insignificant impact on the number of victimizations elicited from respondents is question 32.

With regard to the second issues, Table 2 shows that the screen questions asked only of household respondents (29 through 35) did not pick up all of the household victimizations; almost 10 percent of the vehicle thefts, 14 percent of the burglaries, and more than 30 percent of the household larceny reports were produced by the individual screen questions (36 through 46). This finding, which was also present in the 1974 national data, has led to the suggestion that the idea of querying each individual respondent with the household screen questions warrants further study (Dodge, 1975:5).

Bounded Interviews and Telescoping

In the fifth study conducted by the Bureau of the Census, the procedure of using bounded interviews in the national panel survey was examined to determine its effect on the phenomenon of telescoping. As described earlier, telescoping refers to a memory mechanism by which respondents misplace victimizations in time. In one type of telescoping, respondents recall victimizations that actually occurred before the reference period as having occurred within the reference period. It was noted previously that one of the reasons for using bounded interviews in the national panel survey is to counteract the effect of this type of telescoping. When a housing

unit is recontacted, the interviewer can filter out victimizations that occurred prior to the reference period by comparing the respondent's recollections to a summary of the victimizations reported during the previous interview, 6 months earlier.

But households do not stay in the panel indefinitely; after a certain length of time, households are rotated out of the panel and are replaced by a new group of households. An incoming group of households, however, does not begin to produce usable data for victimization estimates until their second interview because initial interviews with those households are used for bounding purposes only. This design feature allowed for a comparison to be made between unbounded interviews (with households in an incoming rotation group) and bounded interviews (with households already in the panel). The bounded and unbounded groups, which were interviewed during the same months, were compared in terms of the victimizations they reported as having occurred in the same calendar quarters of their reference periods.

Results for the comparisons on total personal and property victimization rates[19] are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Clearly, the personal and property victimization rates derived from unbounded interviews are significantly greater than the rates from bounded interviews in each of the data quarters. This finding indicates that the use of bounded interviews does have a major effect on decreasing the amount of telescoping by respondents.

The Census Bureau study tried to determine whether the differences between unbounded and bounded interviews varied by specific types of crimes or by personal or household characteristics. Results were mixed: the relative difference between the rates for the unbounded and bounded groups were greater for attempted burglaries and larcenies than for completed burglaries and larcenies (Murphy and Cowan, 1976:9). Thus, there is some indication that telescoping is more prevalent for the less serious victimizations.

Internal Telescoping and Recall Bias

In the preceding section attention was given to the type of telescoping that results in a victimization being reported by a respondent as having occurred within the reference period when, in fact, the victimization had occurred prior to the reference period. Another type of telescoping, internal telescoping, is possible. Internal forward telescoping occurs when a respondent reports a victimization that *did* occur in the reference period as having occurred more recently than it actually did. For example, a respondent might report to the interviewer a victimization that actually occurred five months prior to the interview but the respondent might remember the victimization as having occurred two months prior to the interview. Internal telescoping is not a problem if it is sufficient to know *whether* an incident occurred during the reference period rather than *when* it occurred during the reference period. However, in order to produce annual estimates of victimization from the national survey with its rotating panel design, it is necessary to know the month in which each victimization occurred.[20]

Evidence of internal telescoping was found in the results of the national survey conducted for the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (Ennis, 1967) and the NCS city surveys (Gottfredson and Hindelang, 1975). In these studies, internal telescoping was inferred from the clustering of victimizations in the reference period months closest to the month of the interview; that is, respondents were reporting to interviewers that a disproportionate share of their victimizations had occurred in the most recent months of the reference period, indicating that some victimizations were being telescoped forward in time. Although not examined in the report on the survey for the President's Commission, no association was found between internal telescoping and either respondent characteristics or characteristics of victimizations in the NCS city data (Gottfredson and Hindelang, 1975).

Using national NCS data about victimizations that reportedly occurred from June 1973 through June 1975, Census Bureau researchers found that there was, in fact, a clustering of incidents in the more recent months of the reference periods.[21] However, they also found that the distribution of incidents across the 6-month reference periods

[19]In these tables, personal crimes are defined as completed and attempted rapes, robberies, and assaults; property crimes are defined as completed and attempted burglaries, larcenies, and vehicle thefts (Murphy and Cowan, 1976:6).

[20]Because interviews are conducted every month in the national survey, a respondent's 6-month recall period may fall partially in one calendar year (or quarter) and partially in another. For a description of how quarterly and annual victimization estimates are derived from the national survey, see the Census Bureau's survey documentation (U.S. Bureau of the Census, undated) or one of the LEAA reports on the national survey (e.g., LEAA, 1976a or LEAA, 1977).

[21]Incident counts, rather than victimization counts were used in the Census Bureau's study.

TABLE 3 Total personal[a] victimization rates for bounded and unbounded samples in NCS

Data quarter[b]	Population[c]		Victimization rate[d]			
	Bounded	Unbounded	Bounded	Unbounded	Percent difference	z of difference[e]
I/74	163,799,000	27,299,833	7.89	11.30	43.219	3.892
II/74	164,244,000	27,374,000	8.90	12.31	38.315	3.721
III/74	164,861,000	27,476,833	9.38	14.88	58.635	5.491
IV/74	165,344,000	27,557,333	9.74	13.29	36.448	3.731
I/75	165,874,000	27,645,666	8.55	12.17	42.339	3.994

[a]Personal victimizations are defined here as completed and attempted rapes, robberies, and assaults.
[b]I/74 refers to January through March 1974; II/74 refers to April through June 1974; and so on.
[c]Estimated number of persons 12 years of age and older.
[d]Rate per 1,000 persons 12 years of age and older.
[e]The z-statistic was calculated by taking the absolute difference between the bounded and unbounded rates and dividing that difference by the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors for each rate. A z-value of greater than 1.64 indicates that a difference between the rates at least as large as the one observed would only occur by chance five percent of the time in repeated samples of the same size drawn from the same population. In short, it is highly unlikely that the differences shown in the table are due to sampling variation.

Source: Murphy and Cowan, 1976.

TABLE 4 Total property[a] victimization rates for bounded and unbounded samples in NCS

Data quarter[b]	Households[c]		Victimization rate[d]			
	Bounded	Unbounded	Bounded	Unbounded	Percent difference	z of difference[e]
I/74	71,118,300	11,853,050	102.77	128.75	35.010	9.917
II/74	71,489,200	11,914,866	104.09	149.97	44.077	12.339
III/74	72,163,700	12,027,283	114.99	156.65	36.229	11.033
IV/74	72,565,900	12,094,316	119.80	168.96	41.035	12.689
I/75	72,686,500	12,114,416	102.75	147.16	43.221	12.120

[a]Property victimizations are defined here as completed and attempted burglaries, larcenies, and vehicle thefts.
[b]I/74 refers to January through March 1974; II/74 refers to April through June 1974; and so on.
[c]Estimated number of households.
[d]Rate per 1,000 households.
[e]The z-statistic was calculated by taking the absolute difference between the bounded and unbounded rates and dividing that difference by the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors for each rate. A z-value of greater than 1.64 indicates that a difference between the rates at least as large as the one observed would only occur by chance five percent of the time in repeated samples of the same size drawn from the same population. In short, it is highly unlikely that the differences shown in the table are due to sampling variation.
Source: Murphy and Cowan, 1976.

differed when some characteristics of the incidents were taken into account (Woltman and Cadek, 1977). Distribution differences were greatest between incidents that respondents said were and were not reported to the police. Smaller and less consistent differences emerged for some crimes (crimes of violence) when the incidents were sorted on the basis of whether the offender was or was not a stranger to the victim and whether or not the offender used a weapon. The differing distributions of personal incidents (rape, robbery, assault, and larceny from the person) that were and were not reported to the police are illustrated in Figure 3. It can be seen that there was a tendency for both reported and unreported personal incidents to cluster in the more recent months of the recall period, but the tendency was more pronounced for those incidents that were not reported to the police than for those that were; that is, the line in Figure 3 that represents incidents reported to the police is flatter than the line that represents unreported incidents.

Table 5 shows the numbers and percentages from which Figure 3 was constructed. Although Woltman and Cadek (1977: Table A) found the differences between reported and unreported victimizations to be *statistically* significant in the first, fourth, fifth, and sixth months of recall, the numbers on which the tests of significance were computed are

large, and the differences do not appear to be of major *substantive* significance.[22] For example, the difference between the proportions of reported and unreported (to the police) incidents that respondents said had occurred during the first month of the reference period is 23 percent versus 29 percent, and the corresponding difference for incidents in the sixth month (12 percent versus 9 percent) is even smaller although still statistically significant.

In the Census Bureau's report, it is pointed out that differences of the type shown in Figure 3 and Table 5 do not necessarily represent internal telescoping; they could stem from differential memory decay. One might expect, for example, that respondents would be more likely to remember incidents that they reported to the police than incidents not reported, either because reported incidents are likely to be more serious than unreported incidents (Hindelang and Gottfredson, 1976) or because the act of calling the police and answering police questions about the incident reinforces the victim's memory. If such differential memory decay is operating, then the difference between the two lines in Figure 3 may represent the difference between the rates of forgetting for reported and unreported incidents.

The Census Bureau researchers pointed out that the available data could not be used to differentiate between the effects of differential memory decay and internal telescoping. They concluded that the distributions of incidents across the reference period months probably could not be attributed *completely* to either mechanism; both differential memory decay and internal telescoping appear to be operating (Woltman and Cadek, 1977:6).

Panel Bias Study

It was pointed out earlier that the panel design in the national survey permits interviews to be bounded, thus alleviating the problem of telescoping into the reference period victimizations that actually occurred prior to the reference period. However, repeated interviewing of the same household could create other complications. For example, in subsequent visits to the same households, respondents might become less and less willing to cooperate in the relatively long and complex interviewing process. Decreasing cooperation could show up in a decreasing willingness to report victimizations to the interviewer (because the length and complexity of the interview is determined by the number of victimizations reported) or in a decreasing willingness to be interviewed at all. To examine these issues, the Census Bureau conducted a "panel bias study" (Woltman and Bushery, 1975).

Because of the sample rotation procedure used in the household portion of the NCS, the households being interviewed during any 6-month period will consist of some households being interviewed the first time, some being interviewed the second time, and so on. In the panel bias study, interviews conducted from July 1973 through March 1975 were examined in four 6-month segments. Within each 6-month period, comparisons were made between groups of households that had been interviewed a different number of times. That is, households that were interviewed for the second time during July-December 1973 were compared with households that were interviewed for the third time during July-December 1973, and households that were interviewed for the third time during January-June 1974 were compared with those interviewed for the fourth time during the same months.[23] Such comparisons were made for each of the four 6-month periods examined.

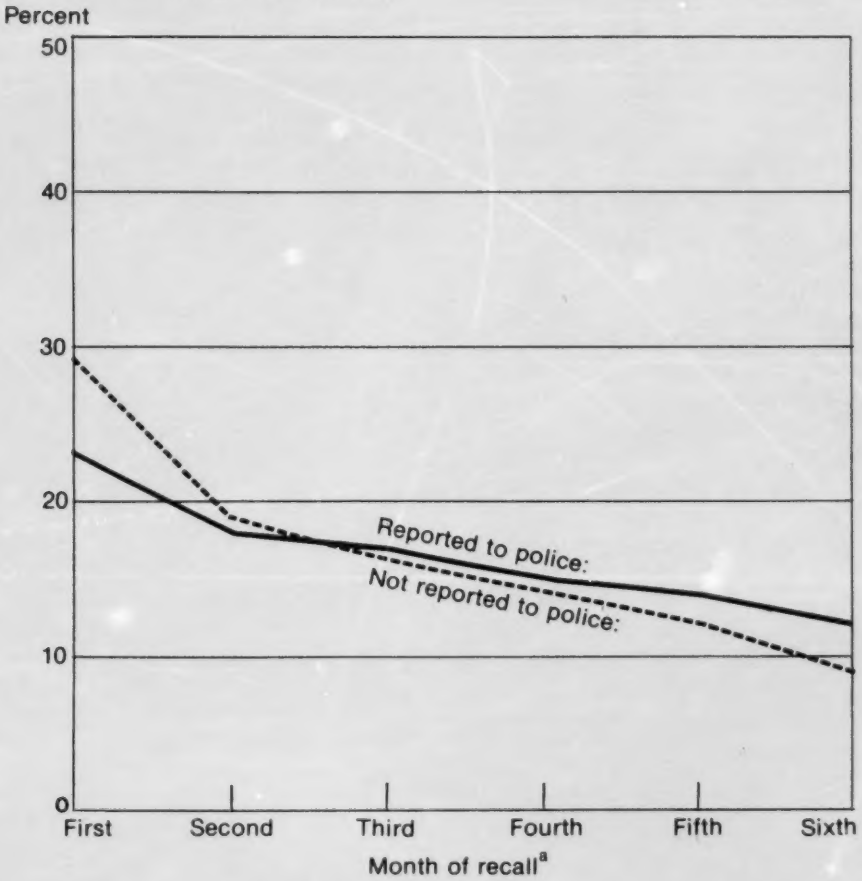
In general, the data indicated some tendency for reporting of victimizations to interviewers to be lower among households and persons who had been in the panel longer: victimization rates were greater for households and persons interviewed for the second time than for households and persons interviewed for the third time during the same months; rates were greater for those interviewed the third time than for those interviewed the fourth time during the same months; and so on. However, the rate differences were generally so small—the larger rate exceeding the lower rate by less than 10 percent in most cases—that sampling error could not be dismissed as the source of the differences (Woltman and Bushery, 1975:163).

The researchers were also able to compare the household and individual non-interview rates among households and persons that had been in the panel for differing lengths of time. The non-interview rates were very low for both eligible households in the sample and for persons 12 years old or older residing in households in which at least one interview was conducted. These rates increased by

[22]For a discussion of statistical versus substantive (practical) significance and the effect of sample size on statistical measures of significance, see Blalock (1972:162-163 and 291-294).

[23]Data from the initial interviews were not used because, as noted earlier in this report, the initial interviews were unbounded.

FIGURE 3 Percentage of total personal incidents reported and not reported to police, by month of recall, United States, June 1973 — June 1975



[a]First month of recall refers to the month immediately preceding the month of the interview; the sixth month of recall refers to the most distant month in the respondent's reference period.

Source: Woltman and Cadek, 1977.

TABLE 5 Number and percentage of total personal incidents[a]
by month of recall and whether or not the incident was reported to the police, United States, June 1973 through June 1975

Was incident reported to police?	Month of recall[b] First month	Second month	Third month	Fourth month	Fifth month	Sixth month	Total
Yes	2,255	1,783	1,669	1,507	1,377	1,221	9,812
	23%	18%	17%	15%	14%	12%	100%
No	6,922	4,665	3,978	3,357	2,932	2,224	24,078
	29%	19%	17%	14%	12%	9%	100%
Total	9,177	6,448	5,647	4,864	4,309	3,445	33,890
	27%	19%	17%	14%	13%	10%	100%

[a]Unweighted incident counts are used in the table.
[b]First month of recall refers to the month immediately preceding the month of the interview; the sixth month of recall refers to the most distant month in the respondent's reference period.
Source: Woltman and Cadek, 1977.

only slight amounts as time in the panel increased. For example, the non-interview rate for households visited for the second time during July-December 1973 was 3.4 percent, and the rate increased to only 4.0 percent when the households were revisited during the January-March 1975 period. The corresponding non-interview rates were 1.3 percent and 1.6 percent for elibible persons in those households that were interviewed. On the basis of these findings, the authors of the panel bias study report concluded that "repeated interviewing of the same sample panels has not had any appreciable effect on . . . non-interview rates" (Woltman and Bushery, 1975:163).[24]

Conclusions

The purpose of this report has been to provide background knowledge about the NCS that will help readers to judge the extent to which the NCS data can be useful for their own planning or research needs. Those interested in more technical, detailed information about the NCS can consult the works that are referenced in the text and listed in the bibliography.

The NCS does provide a major new source of data about certain types of crime: rape, robbery (personal and business), assault, burglary (household and business), larceny, and vehicle theft. The NCS has generated a wealth of detailed information about these crimes, and much of the information has not been available before, at least not for representative samples of victims. This new information—such as reasons for not reporting crimes to the police and details about the losses suffered by victims—may well prove invaluable for answering planning and research questions that previously have been unanswerable because suitable data did not exist. On the other hand, the NCS is not an ultimate data source. It has many limitations that can only be overcome and gaps that can only be filled by treating it as a complement to, rather than as a replacement for, other data sources.

Although the victimization survey technique is relatively new, the NCS program rests on a sound base of pretest experience. But beyond that, the immediately preceding section of this report has shown that the NCS is not a static program. Various aspects of the program are being reviewed continually; improvements have been introduced periodically and more are planned for the future. Again, such improvements will not make the NCS the ultimate data source in criminal justice, but they should make the NCS more capable of answering those questions that are most effectively addressed with victimization survey results.

[24]As this report was being prepared for publication, Woltman and Bushery (1977) reported an update of the panel bias study using data collected from July 1973 through December 1976. They compared victimization rates of households and persons interviewed for the second time with those interviewed for the third time, and those interviewed for the third time with those interviewed for the fourth time, and so on. In each of these comparisons they found that victimization rates were lower for persons and households that had been in the panel longer. However, only the comparison of persons in households interviewed for the second time with those interviewed for the third time showed statistically significant rate differences. Their findings for noninterview rates were similar to the findings in the earlier study: noninterview rates increased very slightly with longer time in the panel.

APPENDIX A.
National Crime Survey
Household Interview
Questionnaire

35

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

FORM NCS-1 AND NCS-2
(4-19-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY
NATIONAL SAMPLE
NCS-1 – BASIC SCREEN QUESTIONNAIRE
NCS-2 – CRIME INCIDENT REPORT

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (U.S. Code 42, Section 3771). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

Sample (cc 4)	Control number (cc 5) PSU	Segment	Ck	Serial
J0 ____				

Household number (cc 2) | Land use (cc 9–11)

INTERVIEWER: *Fill Sample and Control numbers, and items 1, 2, 4, and 9 at time of interview.*

1. Interviewer identification
Code | Name
(010)

2. Record of interview
Line number of household respondent (cc 12) | Date completed
(011)

3. TYPE Z NONINTERVIEW
Interview not obtained for ↴
Line number
(016) _____
(017) _____
(018) _____
(019) _____
NOTE: Fill NCS-7 Noninterview Record, for Types A, B, and C noninterviews.
Complete 14–21 for each line number listed.

4. Household status
(020)
1 ☐ Same household as last enumeration
2 ☐ Replacement household since last enumeration
3 ☐ Previous noninterview or not in sample before

5. Special place type code (cc 6c)
(021) _____

6. Tenure (cc 8)
(022)
1 ☐ Owned or being bought
2 ☐ Rented for cash
3 ☐ No cash rent

7. Type of living quarters (cc 15)
Housing unit
(023)
1 ☐ House, apartment, flat
2 ☐ HU in nontransient hotel, motel, etc.
3 ☐ HU – Permanent in transient hotel, motel, etc.
4 ☐ HU in rooming house
5 ☐ Mobile home or trailer
6 ☐ HU not specified above – *Describe* ↴
_____
OTHER Unit
7 ☐ Quarters not HU in rooming or boarding house
8 ☐ Unit not permanent in transient hotel, motel, etc.
9 ☐ Vacant tent site or trailer site
10 ☐ Not specified above – *Describe* ↴
_____

8. Number of housing units in structure (cc 26)
(024)
1 ☐ 1
2 ☐ 2
3 ☐ 3
4 ☐ 4
5 ☐ 5–9
6 ☐ 10 or more
7 ☐ Mobile home or trailer
8 ☐ Only OTHER units

ASK IN EACH HOUSEHOLD:
9. (Other than the . . . business) does anyone in this household operate a business from this address?
(025)
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes – **What kind of business is that?** ↴
_____
INTERVIEWER: *Enter unrecognizable businesses only*

CENSUS USE ONLY

10. Family income (cc 27)
(026)
1 ☐ Under $1,000
2 ☐ $1,000 to 1,999
3 ☐ 2,000 to 2,999
4 ☐ 3,000 to 3,999
5 ☐ 4,000 to 4,999
6 ☐ 5,000 to 5,999
7 ☐ 6,000 to 7,499
8 ☐ 7,500 to 9,999
9 ☐ 10,000 to 11,999
10 ☐ 12,000 to 14,999
11 ☐ 15,000 to 19,999
12 ☐ 20,000 to 24,999
13 ☐ 25,000 to 49,999
14 ☐ 50,000 and over

11a. Household members 12 years of age and OVER ↴
(027) _____ Total number

b. Household members UNDER 12 years of age ↴
(028) _____ Total number
0 ☐ None

12. Crime Incident Reports filled ↴
(029) _____ Total number – *Fill item 31 on Control Card*
0 ☐ None

13a. Use of telephone (cc 25)
(030)
☐ Phone in unit (Yes in cc 25a)
Phone interview acceptable? (cc 25c or 25d)
1 ☐ Yes . . . . . } SKIP to next applicable item
2 ☐ No – Refused number
☐ Phone elsewhere (Yes in cc 25b)
Phone interview acceptable? (cc 25c or 25d)
3 ☐ Yes . . . . . } SKIP to next applicable item
4 ☐ No – Refused number
5 ☐ No phone (No in cc 25a and 25b)

13b. Proxy information – *Fill for all proxy interviews*
(1) Proxy interview obtained for line number _____
Proxy respondent name | Line number
Reason for proxy interview
(2) Proxy interview obtained for line number _____
Proxy respondent name | Line number
Reason for proxy interview
If more than 2 Proxy interviews, continue in notes.

(031) | (032) | (033)

NCS 1 and 2

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

14. NAME (of household respondent) — KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD	15. TYPE OF INTERVIEW	16. LINE NO. (cc 12)	17. RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD (cc 13b)	18. AGE LAST BIRTHDAY (cc 17)	19. MARITAL STATUS (cc 18)	20a. RACE (cc 19a)	20b. ORIGIN (cc 19b)	21. SEX (cc 20)	22. ARMED FORCES MEMBER (cc 21)	23. Education – highest grade (cc 22)	24. Education – complete that year? (cc 23)
Last	(034) 1 Per. – Self-respondent; 2 Tel. – Self-respondent; 3 Per. – Proxy; 4 Tel. – Proxy } Fill 13b on cover page; 5 NI – Fill 16–21	(035) Line No.	(036) 1 Head; 2 Wife of head; 3 Own child; 4 Other relative; 5 Non-relative	(037) Age	(038) 1 M.; 2 Wd.; 3 D.; 4 Sep.; 5 NM	(039) 1 W.; 2 Neg.; 3 Ot.	Origin	(040) 1 M; 2 F	(041) 1 Yes; 2 No	(042) Grade	(043) 1 Yes; 2 No
First											

CHECK ITEM A ➧ Look at item 4 on cover page. Is this the same household as last enumeration? (Box 1 marked)
☐ Yes – *SKIP* to Check Item B ☐ No

25a. Did you live in this house on April 1, 1970?
(044) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP* to Check Item B 2 ☐ No

b. Where did you live on April 1, 1970? (State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc.)
State, etc. _____ County _____

c. Did you live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?
(045) 1 ☐ No 2 ☐ Yes – *Name of city, town, village, etc.* ➧
(046) ☐☐☐☐☐
(*Ask males 18+ only*)

d. Were you in the Armed Forces on April 1, 1970?
(047) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM B ➧ Is this person 16 years old or older?
☐ No – *SKIP* to 29 ☐ Yes

26a. What were you doing most of LAST WEEK – (working, keeping house, going to school) or something else?
(048) 1 ☐ Working – *SKIP* to 28a; 2 ☐ With a job but not at work; 3 ☐ Looking for work; 4 ☐ Keeping house; 5 ☐ Going to school; 6 ☐ Unable to work – *SKIP* to 26d; 7 ☐ Retired; 8 ☐ Other – *Specify* ➧ _____ (*If Armed Forces, SKIP to 28a*)

b. Did you do any work at all LAST WEEK, not counting work around the house? (*Note: If farm or business operator in HH, ask about unpaid work.*)
(049) 0 ☐ No Yes – **How many hours?** _____ – *SKIP* to 28a

c. Did you have a job or business from which you were temporarily absent or on layoff LAST WEEK?
(050) 1 ☐ No 2 ☐ Yes – Absent – *SKIP* to 28a; 3 ☐ Yes – Layoff – *SKIP* to 27

26d. Have you been looking for work during the past 4 weeks?
(051) 1 ☐ Yes No – **When did you last work?** 2 ☐ Less than 5 years ago – *SKIP* to 28a; 3 ☐ 5 or more years ago; 4 ☐ Never worked } *SKIP* to 29

27. Is there any reason why you could not take a job LAST WEEK?
(052) 1 ☐ No Yes – 2 ☐ Already had a job; 3 ☐ Temporary illness; 4 ☐ Going to school; 5 ☐ Other – *Specify* ➧ _____

28a. For whom did you (last) work? (*Name of company, business, organization or other employer*)
(053) x ☐ Never worked – *SKIP* to 29

b. What kind of business or industry is this? (*E.g.: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Department, farm*)
(054) ☐☐☐

c. Were you –
(055) 1 ☐ **An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?**
2 ☐ **A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county, or local)?**
3 ☐ **SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?**
4 ☐ **Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?**

d. What kind of work were you doing? (*E.g.: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer, Armed Forces*)
(056) ☐☐☐

e. What were your most important activities or duties? (*E.g.: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, Armed Forces*)

Notes

HOUSEHOLD SCREEN QUESTIONS

29. Now I'd like to ask some questions about crime. They refer only to the last 6 months – between _____ 1, 197___ and _____, 197___. During the last 6 months, did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into your (apartment/home), garage, or another building on your property?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

30. (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned) Did you find a door jimmied, a lock forced, or any other signs of an ATTEMPTED break in?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

31. Was anything at all stolen that is kept outside your home, or happened to be left out, such as a bicycle, a garden hose, or lawn furniture? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

32. Did anyone take something belonging to you or to any member of this household, from a place where you or they were temporarily staying, such as a friend's or relative's home, a hotel or motel, or a vacation home?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

33. What was the total number of motor vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) owned by you or any other member of this household during the last 6 months? (057)
0 ☐ None – *SKIP* to 36
1 ☐ 1
2 ☐ 2
3 ☐ 3
4 ☐ 4 or more

34. Did anyone steal, TRY to steal, or use (it/any of them) without permission?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

35. Did anyone steal or TRY to steal parts attached to (it/any of them), such as a battery, hubcaps, tape-deck, etc.?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

INDIVIDUAL SCREEN QUESTIONS

36. The following questions refer only to things that happened to YOU during the last 6 months – between _____1, 197___ and _____, 197___. Did you have your (pocket picked/purse snatched)?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

37. Did anyone take something (else) directly from you by using force, such as by a stickup, mugging or threat?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

38. Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

39. Did anyone beat you up, attack you or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

40. Were you knifed, shot at, or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

41. Did anyone THREATEN to beat you up or THREATEN you with a knife, gun, or some other weapon, NOT including telephone threats? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

42. Did anyone TRY to attack you in some other way? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

43. During the last 6 months, did anyone steal things that belonged to you from inside ANY car or truck, such as packages or clothing?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

44. Was anything stolen from you while you were away from home, for instance at work, in a theater or restaurant, or while traveling?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

45. (Other than any incidents you've already mentioned) was anything (else) at all stolen from you during the last 6 months?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

46. Did you find any evidence that someone ATTEMPTED to steal something that belonged to you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

47. Did you call the police during the last 6 months to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime? (Do not count any calls made to the police concerning the incidents you have just told me about.)
☐ No – *SKIP* to 48
☐ Yes – What happened?
_____
_____
_____
(058) ☐☐
☐☐
☐☐

CHECK ITEM C ➡ Look at 47. Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

48. Did anything happen to YOU during the last 6 months which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
☐ No – *SKIP* to *Check Item E*
☐ Yes – What happened?
_____
_____
_____
(059) ☐☐
☐☐
☐☐

CHECK ITEM D ➡ Look at 48. Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him?
☐ Yes – How many times? _____
☐ No

CHECK ITEM E ➡ Do any of the screen questions contain any entries for "How many times?"
☐ No – *Interview next HH member. End interview if last respondent, and fill item 12 on cover page.*
☐ Yes – *Fill Crime Incident Reports.*

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

14. NAME — KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD	15. TYPE OF INTERVIEW	16. LINE NO. (cc 12)	17. RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD (cc 13b)	18. AGE LAST BIRTHDAY (cc 17)	19. MARITAL STATUS (cc 18)	20a. RACE (cc 19a)	20b. ORIGIN (cc 19b)	21. SEX (cc 20)	22. ARMED FORCES MEMBER (cc 21)	23. Education – highest grade (cc 22)	24. Education – complete that year? (cc 23)
Last First	(034) 1 ☐ Per. – Self respondent 2 ☐ Tel. – Self respondent 3 ☐ Per. – Proxy 4 ☐ Tel. – Proxy *Fill 13b on cover page* 5 ☐ NI – *Fill 18–21*	(035) Line No.	(036) 1 ☐ Head 2 ☐ Wife of head 3 ☐ Own child 4 ☐ Other relative 5 ☐ Non-relative	(037) Age	(038) 1 ☐ M. 2 ☐ Wd. 3 ☐ D. 4 ☐ Sep. 5 ☐ NM	(039) 1 ☐ W. 2 ☐ Neg. 3 ☐ Oth.	Origin	(040) 1 ☐ M 2 ☐ F	(041) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No	(042) Grade	(043) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM A ➧ Look at item 4 on cover page. Is this the same household as last enumeration? *(Box 1 marked)*
☐ Yes – *SKIP to Check Item B* ☐ No

25a. Did you live in this house on April 1, 1970?
(044) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to Check Item B* 2 ☐ No

b. Where did you live on April 1, 1970? (State, foreign country, U.S. possession, etc.)
State, etc. _____ County _____

c. Did you live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?
(045) 1 ☐ No 2 ☐ Yes – *Name of city, town, village, etc.* ➧
(046) ☐☐☐☐☐
(Ask males 18+ only)

d. Were you in the Armed Forces on April 1, 1970?
(047) 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM B ➧ Is this person 16 years old or older?
☐ No – *SKIP to 36* ☐ Yes

26a. What were you doing most of LAST WEEK – (working, keeping house, going to school) or something else?
(048)
1 ☐ Working – *SKIP to 28a*
2 ☐ With a job but not at work
3 ☐ Looking for work
4 ☐ Keeping house
5 ☐ Going to school
6 ☐ Unable to work – *SKIP to 26d*
7 ☐ Retired
8 ☐ Other – Specify ➧
(If Armed Forces, SKIP to 28a)

b. Did you do any work at all LAST WEEK, not counting work around the house? *(Note: If farm or business operator in HH, ask about unpaid work.)*
(049) 0 ☐ No Yes – **How many hours?**_____ – *SKIP to 28a*

c. Did you have a job or business from which you were temporarily absent or on layoff LAST WEEK?
(050) 1 ☐ No 2 ☐ Yes – Absent – *SKIP to 28a*
3 ☐ Yes – Layoff – *SKIP to 27*

26d. Have you been looking for work during the past 4 weeks?
(051) 1 ☐ Yes No – **When did you last work?**
2 ☐ Less than 5 years ago – *SKIP to 28a*
3 ☐ 5 or more years ago
4 ☐ Never worked
} *SKIP to 36*

27. Is there any reason why you could not take a job LAST WEEK?
(052) 1 ☐ No Yes – 2 ☐ Already had a job
3 ☐ Temporary illness
4 ☐ Going to school
5 ☐ Other – Specify ➧

28a. For whom did you (last) work? *(Name of company, business, organization or other employer)*
(053) x ☐ Never worked – *SKIP to 36*

b. What kind of business or industry is this? *(E.g.: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Department, farm)*
(054) ☐☐☐

c. Were you –
(055)
1 ☐ **An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?**
2 ☐ **A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county, or local)?**
3 ☐ **SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?**
4 ☐ **Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?**

d. What kind of work were you doing? *(E.g.: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer, Armed Forces)*
(056) ☐☐☐

e. What were your most important activities or duties? *(E.g.: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, Armed Forces)*

INDIVIDUAL SCREEN QUESTIONS

35. The following questions refer only to things that happened to YOU during the last 6 months – between ____1, 197____ and ____, 197____. Did you have your (pocket picked/purse snatched)?	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
37. Did anyone take something (else) directly from you by using force, such as by a stickup, mugging or threat?	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
38. Did anyone TRY to rob you by using force or threatening to harm you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
39. Did anyone beat you up, attack you or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
40. Were you knifed, shot at, or attacked with some other weapon by anyone at all? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
41. Did anyone THREATEN to beat you up or THREATEN you with a knife, gun, or some other weapon, NOT including telephone threats? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
42. Did anyone TRY to attack you in some other way? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
43. During the last 6 months, did anyone steal things that belonged to you from inside ANY car or truck, such as packages or clothing?	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
44. Was anything stolen from you while you were away from home, for instance at work, in a theater or restaurant, or while traveling?	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
45. (Other than any incidents you've already mentioned) Was anything (else) at all stolen from you during the last 6 months?	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	
46. Did you find any evidence that someone ATTEMPTED to steal something that belonged to you? (other than any incidents already mentioned)	☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No	

47. Did you call the police during the last 6 months to report something that happened to YOU which you thought was a crime? (Do not count any calls made to the police concerning the incidents you have just told me about.)
(058) ☐☐☐
☐ No – *SKIP to 48*
☐ Yes – **What happened?**_____

CHECK ITEM C ➧ Look at 47 – Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him? ☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

48. Did anything happen to YOU during the last 6 months which you thought was a crime, but did NOT report to the police? (other than any incidents already mentioned)
(059) ☐☐☐
☐ No – *SKIP to Check Item E*
☐ Yes – **What happened?**_____

CHECK ITEM D ➧ Look at 48 – Was HH member 12+ attacked or threatened, or was something stolen or an attempt made to steal something that belonged to him? ☐ Yes – How many times? ☐ No

CHECK ITEM E ➧ Do any of the screen questions contain any entries for "How many times?"
☐ No – *Interview next HH member. End interview if last respondent, and fill item 12 on cover page.*
☐ Yes – *Fill Crime Incident Reports.*

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD

Notes

Line number (101)

Screen question number (102)

Incident number (103)

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (U.S. Code 42, Section 3771). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

FORM NCS-2 (6-19-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CRIME INCIDENT REPORT

NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY – NATIONAL SAMPLE

NCS 2 INCIDENT REPORT

1a. You said that during the last 6 months – *(Refer to appropriate screen question for description of crime).*
In what month (did this/did the first) incident happen? *(Show flashcard if necessary. Encourage respondent to give exact month.)*

(104) _____ Month (01–12) | Year 197____

(105) **CHECK ITEM A** → Is this incident report for a series of crimes?
1 ☐ No – *SKIP* to 2
2 ☐ Yes – *(Note: series must have 3 or more similar incidents which respondent can't recall separately)*

b. In what month(s) did these incidents take place? *(Mark all that apply)*
(106)
1 ☐ Spring (March, April, May)
2 ☐ Summer (June, July, August)
3 ☐ Fall (September, October, November)
4 ☐ Winter (December, January, February)

c. How many incidents were involved in this series?
(107)
1 ☐ Three or four
2 ☐ Five to ten
3 ☐ Eleven or more
4 ☐ Don't know

INTERVIEWER: If this report is for a series, read the following statement.
(The following questions refer only to the most recent incident.)

2. About what time did (this/the most recent) incident happen?
(108)
1 ☐ Don't know
2 ☐ During the day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
At night (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)
3 ☐ 6 p.m. to midnight
4 ☐ Midnight to 6 a.m.
5 ☐ Don't know

3a. In what State and county did this incident occur?
☐ Outside U.S. – *END INCIDENT REPORT*
State _____ County _____

b. Did it happen INSIDE THE LIMITS of a city, town, village, etc.?
(110)
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes – *Enter name of city, town, etc.* →
(111) ☐☐☐☐☐☐ _____

4. Where did this incident take place?
(112)
1 ☐ At or in own dwelling, in garage or other building on property *(Includes break-in or attempted break-in)* } *SKIP* to 6a
2 ☐ At or in a vacation home, hotel/motel
3 ☐ Inside commercial building such as store, restaurant, bank, gas station, public conveyance or station } *ASK* 5a
4 ☐ Inside office, factory, or warehouse
5 ☐ Near own home, yard, sidewalk, driveway, carport, apartment hall *(Does not include break-in or attempted break-in)*
6 ☐ On the street, in a park, field, playground, school grounds or parking lot } *SKIP* to Check Item B
7 ☐ Inside school
8 ☐ Other – Specify →
_____

5a. Were you a customer, employee, or owner?
(113)
1 ☐ Customer
2 ☐ Employee
3 ☐ Owner
4 ☐ Other – Specify _____

b. Did the person(s) steal or TRY to steal anything belonging to the store, restaurant, office, factory, etc.?
(114)
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No } *SKIP* to Check Item B
3 ☐ Don't know

6a. Did the offender(s) live there or have a right to be there, such as a guest or a workman?
(115)
1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP* to Check Item B
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

b. Did the offender(s) actually get in or just TRY to get in the building?
(116)
1 ☐ Actually got in
2 ☐ Just tried to get in
3 ☐ Don't know

c. Was there any evidence, such as a broken lock or broken window, that the offender(s) (forced his way in/TRIED to force his way in) the building?
(117)
1 ☐ No
Yes – **What was the evidence? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
2 ☐ Broken lock or window
3 ☐ Forced door or window
4 ☐ Slashed screen
5 ☐ Other – Specify →
_____ } *SKIP* to Check Item B

d. How did the offender(s) (get in/try to get in)?
(118)
1 ☐ Through unlocked door or window
2 ☐ Had key
3 ☐ Don't know
4 ☐ Other – Specify _____

CHECK ITEM B → Was respondent or any other member of this household present when this incident occurred? *(If not sure, ASK)*
(119)
1 ☐ No – *SKIP* to 13a
2 ☐ Yes

7a. Did the person(s) have a weapon such as a gun or knife, or something he was using as a weapon, such as a bottle, or wrench?
(120)
1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know
Yes – **What was the weapon? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*
3 ☐ Gun
4 ☐ Knife
5 ☐ Other – Specify _____

b. Did the person(s) hit you, knock you down, or actually attack you in any way?
(121)
1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP* to 7f
2 ☐ No

c. Did the person(s) threaten you with harm in any way?
(122)
1 ☐ No – *SKIP* to 7e
2 ☐ Yes

CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued

7d. How were you threatened? Any other way? *(Mark all that apply)*

(123)
1 Verbal threat of **rape**
2 Verbal threat of attack **other than rape**
3 Weapon present or threatened with weapon
4 Attempted attack with weapon (for example, shot at)
5 Object thrown at person
6 Followed, surrounded
7 Other – Specify _____

→ *SKIP to 10a*

e. What actually happened? Anything else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(124)
1 Something taken without permission
2 Attempted or threatened to take something
3 Harassed, argument, abusive language
4 Forcible entry or attempted forcible entry of house
5 Forcible entry or attempted entry of car
6 Damaged or destroyed property
7 Attempted or threatened to damage or destroy property
8 Other – Specify _____

→ *SKIP to 10a*

f. How did the person(s) attack you? Any other way? *(Mark all that apply)*

(125)
1 Raped
2 Tried to rape
3 Hit with object held in hand, shot, knifed
4 Hit by thrown object
5 Hit, slapped, knocked down
6 Grabbed, held, tripped, jumped, pushed, etc.
7 Other – Specify _____

8a. What were the injuries you suffered, if any? Anything else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(126)
1 None – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Raped
3 Attempted rape
4 Knife or gunshot wounds
5 Broken bones or teeth knocked out
6 Internal injuries, knocked unconscious
7 Bruises, black eye, cuts, scratches, swelling
8 Other – Specify _____

b. Were you injured to the extent that you needed medical attention after the attack?

(127)
1 No – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Yes

c. Did you receive any treatment at a hospital?

(128)
1 No
2 Emergency room treatment only
3 Stayed overnight or longer – **How many days?** →

(129) _____

d. What was the total amount of your medical expenses resulting from this incident, INCLUDING anything paid by insurance? Include hospital and doctor bills, medicine, therapy, braces, and any other injury-related medical expenses.
INTERVIEWER – If respondent does not know exact amount, encourage him to give an estimate.

(130)
0 No cost – *SKIP to 10a*
$ _____ .00
X Don't know

9a. At the time of the incident, were you covered by any medical insurance, or were you eligible for benefits from any other type of health benefits program, such as Medicaid, Veterans' Administration, or Public Welfare?

(131)
1 No
2 Don't know
→ *SKIP to 10a*
3 Yes

b. Did you file a claim with any of these insurance companies or programs in order to get part or all of your medical expenses paid?

(132)
1 No – *SKIP to 10a*
2 Yes

9c. Did insurance or any health benefits program pay for all or part of the total medical expenses?

(133)
1 Not yet settled
2 None
→ *SKIP to 10a*
3 All
4 Part

d. How much did insurance or a health benefits program pay?

(134) $ _____ .00 *(Obtain an estimate, if necessary)*

10a. Did you do anything to protect yourself or your property during the incident?

(135)
1 No – *SKIP to 11*
2 Yes

b. What did you do? Anything else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(136)
1 Used/brandished gun or knife
2 Used/tried physical force (hit, chased, threw object, used other weapon, etc.)
3 Tried to get help, attract attention, scare offender away (screamed, yelled, called for help, turned on lights, etc.)
4 Threatened, argued, reasoned, etc., with offender
5 Resisted without force, used evasive action (ran/drove away, hid, held property, locked door, ducked, shielded self, etc.)
6 Other – Specify _____

11. Was the crime committed by only one or more than one person?

(137)
1 Only one →
2 Don't know – *SKIP to 12a*
3 More than one →

a. Was this person male or female?

(138)
1 Male
2 Female
3 Don't know

b. How old would you say the person was?

(139)
1 Under 12
2 12–14
3 15–17
4 18–20
5 21 or over
6 Don't know

c. Was the person someone you know or was he a stranger?

(140)
1 Stranger
2 Don't know
3 Known by sight only
4 Casual acquaintance
→ *SKIP to e*
5 Well known

d. Was the person a relative of yours?

(141)
1 No
Yes – **What relationship?**
2 Spouse or ex-spouse
3 Parent
4 Own child
5 Brother or sister
6 Other relative – Specify →

_____

e. Was he/she –

(142)
1 **White?**
2 **Negro?**
3 **Other?** – Specify →

_____

4 Don't know

→ *SKIP to 12a*

f. How many persons?

(143) _____

g. Were they male or female?

(144)
1 All male
2 All female
3 Male and female
4 Don't know

h. How old would you say the youngest was?

(145)
1 Under 12
2 12–14
3 15–17
4 18–20
5 21 or over – *SKIP to j*
6 Don't know

i. How old would you say the oldest was?

(146)
1 Under 12
2 12–14
3 15–17
4 18–20
5 21 or over
6 Don't know

j. Were any of the persons known or related to you or were they all strangers?

(147)
1 All strangers → *SKIP to m*
2 Don't know
3 All relatives → *SKIP to l*
4 Some relatives
5 All known
6 Some known

k. How well were they known? *(Mark all that apply)*

(148)
1 By sight only
2 Casual acquaintance(s)
3 Well known
→ *SKIP to m*

l. How were they related to you? *(Mark all that apply)*

(149)
1 Spouse or ex-spouse
2 Parents
3 Own children
4 Brothers/sisters
5 Other – Specify →

_____

m. Were all of them –

(150)
1 **White?**
2 **Negro?**
3 **Other?** – Specify →

_____

4 Combination – Specify →

_____

5 Don't know

CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued

12a. Were you the only person there besides the offender(s)?

(131) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 13a*
2 ☐ No

b. How many of these persons, not counting yourself, were robbed, harmed, or threatened? Do not include persons under 12 years of age.

(152) 0 ☐ None – *SKIP to 13a*

_____ Number of persons

c. Are any of these persons members of your household now? Do not include household members under 12 years of age.

(153) 0 ☐ No
Yes – **How many, not counting yourself?**

_____

(ALSO MARK "YES" IN CHECK ITEM I ON PAGE 12)

13a. Was something stolen or taken without permission that belonged to you or others in the household?
INTERVIEWER – Include anything stolen from unrecognizable business in respondent's home. Do not include anything stolen from a recognizable business in respondent's home or another business, such as merchandise or cash from a register.

(154) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 13f*
2 ☐ No

b. Did the person(s) ATTEMPT to take something that belonged to you or others in the household?

(155) 1 ☐ No – *SKIP to 13e*
2 ☐ Yes

c. What did they try to take? Anything else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(156) 1 ☐ Purse
2 ☐ Wallet or money
3 ☐ Car
4 ☐ Other motor vehicle
5 ☐ Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 ☐ Don't know
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

CHECK ITEM C → Did they try to take a purse, wallet, or money? *(Box 1 or 2 marked in 13c)*
☐ No – *SKIP to 18a*
☐ Yes

d. Was the (purse/wallet/money) on your person, for instance in a pocket or being held?

(157) 1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
} *SKIP to 18a*

e. What did happen? Anything else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(158) 1 ☐ Attacked
2 ☐ Threatened with harm
3 ☐ Attempted to break into house or garage
4 ☐ Attempted to break into car
5 ☐ Harassed, argument, abusive language
6 ☐ Damaged or destroyed property
7 ☐ Attempted or threatened to damage or destroy property
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____
} *SKIP to 18a*

f. What was taken that belonged to you or others in the household? Anything else?

(159) Cash: $_____ . 00
and/or
Property: *(Mark all that apply)*

(160) 0 ☐ Only cash taken – *SKIP to 14c*
1 ☐ Purse
2 ☐ Wallet
3 ☐ Car
4 ☐ Other motor vehicle
5 ☐ Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

CHECK ITEM D → Was a car or other motor vehicle taken? *(Box 3 or 4 marked in 13f)*
☐ No – *SKIP to Check Item E*
☐ Yes

14a. Had permission to use the (car/motor vehicle) ever been given to the person who took it?

(161) 1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know
} *SKIP to Check Item E*
3 ☐ Yes

b. Did the person return the (car/motor vehicle)?

(162) 1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM E → Is Box 1 or 2 marked in 13f?
☐ No – *SKIP to 15a*
☐ Yes

c. Was the (purse/wallet/money) on your person, for instance, in a pocket or being held by you when it was taken?

(163) 1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

CHECK ITEM F → Was only cash taken? *(Box 0 marked in 13f)*
☐ Yes – *SKIP to 16a*
☐ No

15a. Altogether, what was the value of the PROPERTY that was taken?
INTERVIEWER – Exclude stolen cash, and enter $0 for stolen checks and credit cards, even if they were used.

(164) $_____ . 00

b. How did you decide the value of the property that was stolen? Any other way? *(Mark all that apply)*

(165) 1 ☐ Original cost
2 ☐ Replacement cost
3 ☐ Personal estimate of current value
4 ☐ Insurance report estimate
5 ☐ Police estimate
6 ☐ Don't know
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

16a. Was all or part of the stolen money or property recovered, not counting anything received from insurance?

(166) 1 ☐ None
2 ☐ All
} *SKIP to 17a*
3 ☐ Part

b. What was recovered? Anything else?

(167) Cash: $_____ . 00
and/or
Property: *(Mark all that apply)*

(168) 0 ☐ Cash only recovered – *SKIP to 17a*
1 ☐ Purse
2 ☐ Wallet
3 ☐ Car
4 ☐ Other motor vehicle
5 ☐ Part of car (hubcap, tape-deck, etc.)
6 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

c. What was the value of the property recovered (excluding recovered cash)?

(169) $_____ . 00

CRIME INCIDENT QUESTIONS – Continued

17a. Was there any insurance against theft?

(170) 1 ☐ No . . . . . } *SKIP to 18a*
2 ☐ Don't know
3 ☐ Yes

b. Was this loss reported to an insurance company?

(171) 1 ☐ No . . . . . } *SKIP to 18a*
2 ☐ Don't know
3 ☐ Yes

c. Was any of this loss recovered through insurance?

(172) 1 ☐ Not yet settled } *SKIP to 18a*
2 ☐ No . . . . . .
3 ☐ Yes

d. How much was recovered?

INTERVIEWER – If property replaced by insurance company instead of cash settlement, ask for estimate of value of the property replaced.

(173) $ _____ . 00

18a. Did any household member lose any time from work because of this incident?

(174) 0 ☐ No – *SKIP to 19a*

Yes – **How many members?** ☐

b. How much time was lost altogether?

(175) 1 ☐ Less than 1 day
2 ☐ 1–5 days
3 ☐ 6–10 days
4 ☐ Over 10 days
5 ☐ Don't know

19a. Was anything that belonged to you or other members of the household damaged but not taken in this incident? For example, was a lock or window broken, clothing damaged, or damage done to a car, etc.?

(176) 1 ☐ No – *SKIP to 20a*
2 ☐ Yes

b. (Was/were) the damaged item(s) repaired or replaced?

(177) 1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 19d*
2 ☐ No

c. How much would it cost to repair or replace the damaged item(s)?

(178) $ _____ . 00 } *SKIP to 20a*
x ☐ Don't know

d. How much was the repair or replacement cost?

(179) x ☐ No cost or don't know – *SKIP to 20a*

$ _____ . 00

e. Who paid or will pay for the repairs or replacement? Anyone else? *(Mark all that apply)*

(180) 1 ☐ Household member
2 ☐ Landlord
3 ☐ Insurance
4 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

20a. Were the police informed of this incident in any way?

(181) 1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP to Check Item G*
Yes – **Who told them?**
3 ☐ Household member } *SKIP to Check Item G*
4 ☐ Someone else
5 ☐ Police on scene

b. What was the reason this incident was not reported to the police? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

(182) 1 ☐ Nothing could be done – lack of proof
2 ☐ Did not think it important enough
3 ☐ Police wouldn't want to be bothered
4 ☐ Did not want to take time – too inconvenient
5 ☐ Private or personal matter, did not want to report it
6 ☐ Did not want to get involved
7 ☐ Afraid of reprisal
8 ☐ Reported to someone else
9 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

CHECK ITEM G ➡ Is this person 16 years or older?
☐ No – *SKIP to Check Item H*
☐ Yes – **ASK** *21a*

21a. Did you have a job at the time this incident happened?

(183) 1 ☐ No – *SKIP to Check Item H*
2 ☐ Yes

b. What was the job?

(184) 1 ☐ Same as described in NCS-1 items 28a–e – *SKIP to Check Item H*
2 ☐ Different than described in NCS-1 items 28a–e

c. For whom did you work? *(Name of company, business, organization or other employer)*

d. What kind of business or industry is this? *(For example: TV and radio mfg., retail shoe store, State Labor Dept., farm)*

(187) ☐☐☐

e. Were you –

(188) 1 ☐ **An employee of a PRIVATE company, business or individual for wages, salary or commissions?**
2 ☐ **A GOVERNMENT employee (Federal, State, county or local)?**
3 ☐ **SELF-EMPLOYED in OWN business, professional practice or farm?**
4 ☐ **Working WITHOUT PAY in family business or farm?**

f. What kind of work were you doing? *(For example: electrical engineer, stock clerk, typist, farmer)*

(189) ☐☐☐

g. What were your most important activities or duties? *(For example: typing, keeping account books, selling cars, finishing concrete, etc.)*

CHECK ITEM H ➡ Summarize this incident or series of incidents.

CHECK ITEM I ➡ Look at 12c on Incident Report, Is there an entry for "How many?"
☐ No
☐ Yes – *Be sure you have an Incident Report for each HH member 12 years of age or over who was robbed, harmed, or threatened in this incident.*

CHECK ITEM J ➡ Is this the last Incident Report to be filled for this person?
☐ No – *Go to next Incident Report.*
☐ Yes – Is this the last HH member to be interviewed?
☐ No – *Interview next HH member.*
☐ Yes – *END INTERVIEW. Enter total number of Crime Incident Reports filled for this household in Item 12 on the cover of NCS-1.*

APPENDIX B.
National Crime Survey
Commercial Interview
Questionnaire

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (Public Law 93-83). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

FORM CVS-100 (4-21-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COMMERCIAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

NATIONAL SAMPLE

1. IDENTIFICATION CODES

a. PSU	b. Segment	c. Line No.	d. Part	e. Panel

f. RO	g. Interviewer code	h. Total number of incidents

INTRODUCTION

Good morning (afternoon). I'm Mr(s.)____ *(your name)*____ from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. We are conducting a survey in this area to measure the extent to which businesses are victims of burglaries and/or robberies. The Government needs to know how much crime there is and where it is to plan and administer programs which will have an impact on the crime problem. You can help by answering some questions for me.

Part I – BUSINESS CHARACTERISTICS

2a. Did you (the owner) operate this establishment at this location during the entire 6-month period ending _____?

1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 3a*
2 ☐ No – **How many months during the designated period?** . . . . . Months

b. What were these months?

1 ☐ Jan. 4 ☐ Apr. 7 ☐ July A ☐ Oct.
2 ☐ Feb. 5 ☐ May 8 ☐ Aug. B ☐ Nov.
3 ☐ Mar. 6 ☐ June 9 ☐ Sept. C ☐ Dec.

c. The last time we were here (Mr(s.)____ gave information for) this establishment (was vacant).

Did anyone else own this establishment during the 6-month period ending _____?

1 ☐ Yes – *Enter name* _____
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know – *Inquire at neighboring establishment.*

INTERVIEWER – Complete additional questionnaire(s) by contacting the former owner(s) or for vacant establishments by contacting neighboring establishments. Complete separate questionnaires to account for all months of reference period.

3a. Is this establishment owned or operated as an incorporated business?

1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 4* 2 ☐ No

b. How is this business owned or operated?

1 ☐ Individual proprietorship
2 ☐ Partnership
3 ☐ Government – *Continue interview ONLY if liquor store or any type of transportation*
4 ☐ Other – *Specify* →

4. Do you (the owner) operate more than one establishment?

1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

5. Excluding you (the owner) (the partner) how many paid employees did this establishment average during the 6-month period ending _____?

1 ☐ None 4 ☐ 8 to 19
2 ☐ 1 to 3 5 ☐ 20 or more
3 ☐ 4 to 7

6a. What do you consider your kind of business to be at this location? OFFICE USE ONLY

_____

b. *Mark (X) one box*

RETAIL
1 ☐ Food
2 ☐ Eating and drinking
3 ☐ General merchandise
4 ☐ Apparel
5 ☐ Furniture and appliance
6 ☐ Lumber, hardware, mobile home dealers
7 ☐ Automotive
8 ☐ Drug and proprietary
9 ☐ Liquor
A ☐ Gasoline service stations
B ☐ Other retail

WHOLESALE
C ☐ Durable
D ☐ Nondurable

MANUFACTURING
E ☐ Durable
F ☐ Nondurable

REAL ESTATE
G ☐ Apartment rental office
H ☐ Other real estate

I ☐ **SERVICE**
J ☐ **BANKS**
K ☐ **TRANSPORTATION**
L ☐ **ALL OTHERS** – *Specify* →

7. Did anyone else operate any departments or concessions or some other business activity in this establishment during the 6-month period ending _____?

1 ☐ Yes – *List each department, concession, or other business activity on a separate line of Section V of the segment folder, if not already listed. Complete a separate questionnaire for each one that falls on a sample line.*
2 ☐ No

DO NOT ASK ITEM 8 UNTIL PART II AND ANY INCIDENT REPORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

8. What were your approximate gross sales of merchandise and/or receipts from services at this establishment for the previous 12 months ending _____? (Estimate annual sales and/or receipts if not in business for entire 12 months.)

1 ☐ None
2 ☐ Under $10,000
3 ☐ $10,000 to $24,999
4 ☐ $25,000 to $49,999
5 ☐ $50,000 to $99,999
6 ☐ $100,000 to $499,999
7 ☐ $500,000 to $999,999
8 ☐ $1,000,000 and over
9 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

INTERVIEWER USE ONLY

9a. Record of interview

(1) Date _____

(2) Name of respondent _____

(3) Title of respondent _____

(4) Telephone →	Area code	Number	Extension

b. Reason for non-interview

TYPE A
1 ☐ Occupant in business during survey period but unable to contact
2 ☐ Refusal and in business during survey period
3 ☐ Other Type A – *Specify* →

TYPE B
4 ☐ Present occupant not in business during survey period
5 ☐ Vacant or closed
6 ☐ Other Type B (Seasonal, etc.) – *Specify* →

TYPE C
7 ☐ Occupied by nonlistable activity
8 ☐ Demolished
9 ☐ Other Type C – *Specify* →

Part II – SCREENING QUESTIONS

a. The last time this establishment was interviewed, ____ burglary(ies) were reported in _____ *(month)* and ____ robbery(ies) were reported in _____ *(month)*.

b. Now I'd like to ask some questions about particular kinds of theft or attempted theft. These questions refer only to this establishment for the 6-month period ending _____.

10. During this period did anyone break into or somehow illegally get into this place of business?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

11. (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) during this period did anyone find a door jimmied, a lock forced, or any other signs of an ATTEMPTED break-in?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

12. During this period were you, the owner, or any employee held up by anyone using a weapon, force or threat of force on these premises?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

13. (Other than the incident(s) already mentioned,) did anyone ATTEMPT to hold up you, the owner, or any employee by using force or threatening to harm you while on these premises?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

14. (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) during this period were you, the owner, or any employee held up while delivering merchandise or carrying business money outside the business?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

15. (Other than the incident(s) just mentioned,) did anyone ATTEMPT to hold up you, the owner, or any employee while delivering merchandise or carrying business money outside the business?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many times?** → Number
(Fill an Incident Report for each)
2 ☐ No

16a. Is this establishment insured against burglary and/or robbery by means other than self-insurance?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know } *SKIP to 17a*

b. Does the insurance also cover other types of crime losses, such as vandalism or shoplifting and employee theft?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know } *SKIP to 19a*

17a. Has this establishment ever been insured against burglary and/or robbery by means other than self-insurance?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 18*
3 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP to 19a*

b. Did the insurance also cover other types of crime losses, such as vandalism or shoplifting and employee theft?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

c. Did you drop the insurance or did the company cancel your policy?

1 ☐ Businessman dropped it . . . . . } *SKIP to 19a*
2 ☐ Insurance company cancelled policy

18. Why hasn't this establishment ever been insured against burglary and/or robbery?

1 ☐ Couldn't afford it
2 ☐ Couldn't get anyone to insure you
3 ☐ Didn't need it
4 ☐ Self-insured
5 ☐ Premium too expensive
6 ☐ Other – *Specify* →

19a. What security measures, if any, are present at this location now, to protect it against burglary and/or robbery?

a. *Mark (X) all that apply*

b. When were these security measures first installed or otherwise undertaken?

Enter the appropriate code from the list given below.

		b. Codes
1	☐ Alarm system – outside ringing, building alarm	
2	☐ Burglar alarm – inside ringing	
3	☐ Central alarm – rings at police department or security agency	
4	☐ Reinforcing devices, such as bars on windows, grates, gates, etc.	
5	☐ Guard, watchman	
6	☐ Watch dog	
7	☐ Firearms	
8	☐ Cameras	
9	☐ Mirrors	
A	☐ Locks	
B	☐ Comply with National Banking Act (for banks only)	
C	☐ Lights – outside or additional inside	
D	☐ Other – *Specify* →	
E	☐ None	

Codes for use in item 19b

LESS THAN 1 YEAR AGO		MORE THAN 1 YEAR
1 – January	7 – July	D – 1–2 years ago
2 – February	8 – August	E – 2–5 years ago
3 – March	9 – September	F – More than 5 years ago
4 – April	A – October	
5 – May	B – November	
6 – June	C – December	

20. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM → Were there any incidents reported in 10–15?

☐ No – *Detach Incident Reports, enter "0" in item 1h on page 1, and continue with item 8.*

☐ Yes – *Enter number of incidents in item 1h on page 1, and continue with first Incident Report.*

NOTES

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 43-R0587

TRANSCRIBE THE IDENTIFICATION CODES FROM ITEM 1 OF THE COVER SHEET AND COMPLETE A SEPARATE INCIDENT REPORT FOR **EACH** INCIDENT.

FORM CVS-100 (4-21-77)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMIN.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INCIDENT REPORT

COMMERCIAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY – NATIONAL SAMPLE

INCIDENT REPORT

IDENTIFICATION CODE

a. PSU	b. Segment	c. Line No.	d. Part	e. Panel	f. RO	g. Incident No.

INCIDENT NUMBER
Record which incident (1, 2, etc.) is covered by this page

You said that during the 6 months beginning ______ and ending ______ *(refer to screening questions 10–15 for description of crime).*

1. In what month did this (did the first) incident happen?
1 ☐ Jan. 4 ☐ April 7 ☐ July A ☐ Oct.
2 ☐ Feb. 5 ☐ May 8 ☐ Aug. B ☐ Nov.
3 ☐ Mar. 6 ☐ June 9 ☐ Sept. C ☐ Dec.

2. About what time did it happen?
1 ☐ During the day (6 a.m. – 6 p.m.)
At night (6 p.m. – 6 a.m.)
2 ☐ 6 p.m. – Midnight
3 ☐ Midnight – 6 a.m.
4 ☐ Don't know what time at night
5 ☐ Don't know

3. Where did this incident take place?
1 ☐ At this place of business
2 ☐ On delivery
3 ☐ Enroute to bank
4 ☐ Other – *Specify* ______

4. Were you, the owner, or any employee present while this incident was occuring?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 10*
3 ☐ Don't know

5a. Did the person holding you up have a weapon or something that was used as a weapon, such as a bottle or wrench?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No } *SKIP to 6a*
3 ☐ Don't know } *SKIP to 6a*

b. What was the weapon? *(Mark (X) all that apply)*
1 ☐ Gun
2 ☐ Knife
3 ☐ Other – *Specify* ______

6a. How many persons were involved in committing the crime?
1 ☐ One – *Continue with 6b below*
2 ☐ Two } *SKIP to 6e*
3 ☐ Three } *SKIP to 6e*
4 ☐ Four or more } *SKIP to 6e*
5 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP to 7a*

b. How old would you say the person was?
1 ☐ Under 12 4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14 5 ☐ 21 or over
3 ☐ 15–17 6 ☐ Don't know

c. Was the person male or female?
1 ☐ Male
2 ☐ Female
3 ☐ Don't know

d. Was he (she) –
1 ☐ **White?**
2 ☐ **Black?**
3 ☐ **Other?** – *Specify* ______
4 ☐ Don't know
} *SKIP to 7a*

e. How old would you say the youngest person was?
1 ☐ Under 12 4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14 5 ☐ 21 or over – *SKIP to 6g*
3 ☐ 15–17 6 ☐ Don't know

f. How old would you say the oldest person was?
1 ☐ Under 12 4 ☐ 18–20
2 ☐ 12–14 5 ☐ 21 or over
3 ☐ 15–17 6 ☐ Don't know

g. Were they male or female?
1 ☐ All male 3 ☐ Male and female
2 ☐ All female 4 ☐ Don't know

h. Were they –
1 ☐ **Only white?**
2 ☐ **Only black?**
3 ☐ **Only other?** – *Specify* ______
4 ☐ **Some combination?** – *Specify* ______
5 ☐ Don't know

7a. Were you, the owner, or any employee injured in this incident, seriously enough to require medical attention?
1 ☐ Yes – **How many?** → Number ____
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 9a*

b. How many of them stayed in a hospital overnight or longer? Number ____

8. Of those receiving treatment in or out of a hospital, did this business pay for any of the medical expenses not covered by a regular health benefits program?
1 ☐ Yes – **How much was paid?** $ ______ .
2 ☐ No
3 ☐ Don't know

9a. Did any deaths occur as a result of this incident?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 15a*

b. Who was killed? *(Mark (X) all that apply)* **c. How many?**

b. Who was killed?	c. How many?
1 ☐ Owner(s)	
2 ☐ Employees	
3 ☐ Customers	
4 ☐ Innocent bystander(s)	
5 ☐ Offender(s)	
6 ☐ Police	
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* ______	

SKIP to 15a

10. Did the offender enter, attempt to enter, or remain in this establishment illegally?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

Discontinue use of Incident Report. Enter at the top of this sheet "Out of Scope–Larceny," erase incident number, change the answers to screening questions 10–15, change number of incidents in item 1h, page 1, and go on to the next reported incident. If no other incidents are reported, return to page 1 and complete items 8 and 9 and end the interview.

11. Did the offender(s) actually get in or just try to get in?
1 ☐ Actually got in
2 ☐ Just tried to get in

12. Was there a broken window, broken lock, alarm, or any other evidence that the offender(s) forced (tried to force) his (their) way in?
1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 14*

13. What was the evidence? *(Mark all that apply)*
1 ☐ Broken lock or window
2 ☐ Forced door
3 ☐ Alarm
4 ☐ Other – *Specify* ______
} *SKIP to 15a*

14. How did the offender(s) get in (try to get in)?
1 ☐ Through unlocked door or window
2 ☐ Had a key
3 ☐ Other – *Specify* ______
4 ☐ Don't know

INCIDENT REPORT – Continued

15a. Was anything damaged in this incident? For example, a lock or window broken, damaged merchandise, etc.

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 16a*

b. Was (were) the damaged item(s) repaired or replaced?

1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 15d*
2 ☐ No

c. How much would it cost to repair or replace the damages? (Estimate)

$ _____ .
X ☐ Don't know
} *SKIP to 15e*

d. How much did it cost to repair or replace the damages?

$ _____ .
V ☐ No cost – *SKIP to 16a*
X ☐ Don't know

e. Who paid or will pay for the repairs or replacement?

(Mark (X) all that apply)

1 ☐ This business
2 ☐ Insurance
3 ☐ Owner of building (landlord)
4 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____
5 ☐ Don't know

16a. Did the offender(s) take any money, merchandise, equipment, or supplies?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 18a*

b. How much money was taken? → $ _____ .

c. What was the total value of merchandise, equipment, or supplies taken?

$ _____ .
V ☐ None
X ☐ Don't know
} *SKIP to 17a*

d. How was the value (merchandise, equipment, or supplies taken) determined?

1 ☐ Original cost
2 ☐ Replacement cost
3 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

17a. How much, if any, of the stolen money and/or property was recovered by insurance?

$ _____ .
V ☐ None – **Why not?**
1 ☐ Didn't report it
2 ☐ Does not have insurance
3 ☐ Not settled yet
4 ☐ Policy has a deductible
5 ☐ Money and/or merchandise was recovered
X ☐ Don't know

b. How much, if any, of the stolen money and/or property was recovered by means other than insurance?

$ _____ .
V ☐ None
X ☐ Don't know
} *SKIP to 18a*

c. By what means was the stolen money and/or property recovered?

1 ☐ Police
2 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

18a. Did you, the owner, or any employee here lose any time from work because of this incident?

1 ☐ Yes – **How many people?** → Number _____
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 19a*

b. How many work days were lost altogether?

1 ☐ Less than 1 day
2 ☐ 1–5 days
3 ☐ 6–10 days
4 ☐ Over 10 days – **How many?** → Days _____
5 ☐ Don't know

19a. Were any security measures taken after this incident to protect the establishment from future incidents?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No – *SKIP to 20a*

b. What measures were taken?

(Mark (X) all that apply)

1 ☐ Alarm system – outside ringing
2 ☐ Burglar alarm – inside ringing
3 ☐ Central alarm
4 ☐ Reinforcing devices, grates, gates, bars on window, etc.
5 ☐ Guard, watchman
6 ☐ Watch dog
7 ☐ Firearms
8 ☐ Cameras
9 ☐ Mirrors
A ☐ Locks
B ☐ Lights – outside or additional inside
C ☐ Other – *Specify*

20a. Were the police informed of this incident in any way?

1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP to 21*
☐ Yes – **Who told them?**
3 ☐ Owner(s)
4 ☐ Employee
5 ☐ Someone else
6 ☐ Police on scene
} *SKIP to 21*

b. What was the reason this incident was not reported to the police? *(Mark (X) all that apply)*

1 ☐ Nothing could be done – lack of proof
2 ☐ Did not think it important enough
3 ☐ Police wouldn't want to be bothered
4 ☐ Did not want to take the time – too inconvenient
5 ☐ Private or personal matter, did not want to report it
6 ☐ Did not want to get involved
7 ☐ Afraid of reprisal
8 ☐ Reported to someone else
9 ☐ Other – *Specify*

21. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM ▶ Are there more incidents to record?

☐ No – *Return to page 1, complete items 8 and 9, and end interview.*
☐ Yes – *Fill the next Incident Report.*

NOTES

APPENDIX C.
National Crime Surveys,
City Surveys,
Attitude Questionnaire

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 41-R2661

FORM NCS-6
(6-6-76)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY
CENTRAL CITIES SAMPLE

ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTICE – Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (Public Law 93-83). All identifiable information will be used only by persons engaged in and for the purposes of the survey, and may not be disclosed or released to others for any purpose.

A. Control number

PSU	Serial	Panel	HH	Segment

B. Name of household head

C. Reason for noninterview

(310) 1 ☐ TYPE A → 2 ☐ TYPE B 3 ☐ TYPE C

Race of head

(311) 1 ☐ White
2 ☐ Negro
3 ☐ Other

TYPE Z →
Interview not obtained for –
Line number

(312) _____
(313) _____
(314) _____
(315) _____

CENSUS USE ONLY

(316) 1 | (317) | (318) | (319)

HOUSEHOLD ATTITUDE QUESTIONS
Ask only household respondent

Before we get to the major portion of the survey, I would like to ask you a few questions related to subjects which seem to be of some concern to people. These questions ask you what you think, what you feel, your attitudes and opinions.

1. How long have you lived at this address?

(320) 1 ☐ Less than 1 year
2 ☐ 1–2 years
3 ☐ 3–5 years
} *ASK 2a*
4 ☐ More than 5 years – *SKIP to 5a*

2a. Why did you select this particular neighborhood? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

(321) 1 ☐ Neighborhood characteristics – type of neighbors, environment, streets, parks, etc.
2 ☐ Good schools
3 ☐ Safe from crime
4 ☐ Only place housing could be found, lack of choice
5 ☐ Price was right
6 ☐ Location – close to job, family, friends, school, shopping, etc.
7 ☐ House (apartment) or property characteristics – size, quality, yard space, etc.
8 ☐ Always lived in this neighborhood
9 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one reason)

b. Which reason would you say was the most important?

(322) _____ *Enter item number*

3a. Where did you live before you moved here?

(323) 1 ☐ Outside U.S.
2 ☐ Inside limits of this city
} *SKIP to 4a*
3 ☐ Somewhere else in U.S. – *Specify* →

_____ State

_____ County

b. Did you live inside the limits of a city, town, village, etc.?

(324) 1 ☐ No
2 ☐ Yes – *Enter name of city, town, etc.* →

(325) ☐☐☐☐☐ _____

4a. Why did you leave there? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

(326) 1 ☐ Location – closer to job, family, friends, school, shopping, etc., here
2 ☐ House (apartment) or property characteristics – size, quality, yard space, etc.
3 ☐ Wanted better housing, own home
4 ☐ Wanted cheaper housing
5 ☐ No choice – evicted, building demolished, condemned, etc.
6 ☐ Change in living arrangements – marital status, wanted to live alone, etc.
7 ☐ Bad element moving in
8 ☐ Crime in old neighborhood, afraid
9 ☐ Didn't like neighborhood characteristics – environment, problems with neighbors, etc.
10 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one reason)

b. Which reason would you say was the most important?

(327) _____ *Enter item number*

5a. Is there anything you don't like about this neighborhood?

(328) 0 ☐ No – *SKIP to 6a*
Yes – **What? Anything else?** *(Mark all that apply)*

(329) 1 ☐ Traffic, parking
2 ☐ Environmental problems – trash, noise, overcrowding, etc.
3 ☐ Crime or fear of crime
4 ☐ Public transportation problem
5 ☐ Inadequate schools, shopping facilities, etc.
6 ☐ Bad element moving in
7 ☐ Problems with neighbors, characteristics of neighbors
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one answer)

b. Which problem would you say is the most serious?

(330) _____ *Enter item number*

6a. Do you do your major food shopping in this neighborhood?

(331) 0 ☐ Yes – *SKIP to 7a*
No – **Why not? Any other reason?** *(Mark all that apply)*

(332) 1 ☐ No stores in neighborhood, others more convenient
2 ☐ Stores in neighborhood inadequate, prefers (better) stores elsewhere
3 ☐ High prices, commissary or PX cheaper
4 ☐ Crime or fear of crime
5 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one reason)

b. Which reason would you say is the most important?

(333) _____ *Enter item number*

7a. When you shop for things other than food, such as clothing and general merchandise, do you USUALLY go to suburban or neighborhood shopping centers or do you shop "downtown?"

(334) 1 ☐ Suburban or neighborhood
2 ☐ Downtown

b. Why is that? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

(335) 1 ☐ Better parking, less traffic
2 ☐ Better transportation
3 ☐ More convenient
4 ☐ Better selection, more stores, more choice
5 ☐ Afraid of crime
6 ☐ Store hours better
7 ☐ Better prices
8 ☐ Prefers (better) stores, location, service, employees
9 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one reason)

c. Which one would you say is the most important reason?

(336) _____ *Enter item number*

INTERVIEWER – *Complete interview with household respondent, beginning with Individual Attitude Questions.*

NCS 6 ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE

INDIVIDUAL ATTITUDE QUESTIONS – *Ask each household member 16 or older*

KEYER – BEGIN NEW RECORD

337 Line number / Name

8a. How often do you go out in the evening for entertainment, such as to restaurants, theaters, etc.?

338
1 ☐ Once a week or more
2 ☐ Less than once a week – more than once a month
3 ☐ About once a month
4 ☐ 2 or 3 times a year
5 ☐ Less than 2 or 3 times a year or never

b. Do you go to these places more or less now than you did a year or two ago?

339
1 ☐ About the same – *SKIP* to Check Item A
2 ☐ More
3 ☐ Less

Why? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

340
1 ☐ Money situation
2 ☐ Places to go, people to go with
3 ☐ Convenience
4 ☐ Health (own)
5 ☐ Transportation
6 ☐ Age
7 ☐ Family reasons (marriage, children, parents)
8 ☐ Activities, job, school
9 ☐ Crime or fear of crime
10 ☐ Want to, like to, enjoyment
11 ☐ Other – *Specify* ____

(If more than one reason)

c. Which reason would you say is the most important?

341 _____ *Enter item number*

CHECK ITEM A: Is box 1, 2, or 3 marked in 8a?
☐ No – *SKIP* to 9a ☐ Yes – *ASK* 8d

d. When you do go out to restaurants or theaters in the evening, is it usually in the city or outside of the city?

342
1 ☐ Usually in the city
2 ☐ Usually outside of the city
3 ☐ About equal – *SKIP* to 9a

e. Why do you usually go (outside the city /in the city)? Any other reason? *(Mark all that apply)*

343
1 ☐ More convenient, familiar, easier to get there, only place available
2 ☐ Parking problems, traffic
3 ☐ Too much crime in other place
4 ☐ More to do
5 ☐ Prefer (better) facilities (restaurants, theaters, etc.)
6 ☐ More expensive in other area
7 ☐ Because of friends, relatives
8 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one reason)

f. Which reason would you say is the most important?

344 _____ *Enter item number*

9a. Now I'd like to get your opinions about crime in general. Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in your neighborhood has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?

345
1 ☐ Increased
2 ☐ Decreased
3 ☐ Same – *SKIP* to c
4 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP* to c
5 ☐ Haven't lived here that long – *SKIP* to c

b. Were you thinking about any specific kinds of crimes when you said you think crime in your neighborhood has (increased/decreased)?

346 0 ☐ No Yes – What kinds of crimes? _____

c. How about any crimes which may be happening in your neighborhood – would you say they are committed mostly by the people who live here in this neighborhood or mostly by outsiders?

347
1 ☐ No crimes happening in neighborhood
2 ☐ People living here
3 ☐ Outsiders
4 ☐ Equally by both
5 ☐ Don't know

10a. Within the past year or two do you think that crime in the United States has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?

348
1 ☐ Increased } *ASK* b
2 ☐ Decreased } *ASK* b
3 ☐ Same } *SKIP* to 11a
4 ☐ Don't know } *SKIP* to 11a

b. Were you thinking about any specific kinds of crimes when you said you think crime in the U.S. has (increased/decreased)?

349 0 ☐ No Yes – What kinds of crimes? _____

11a. How safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood AT NIGHT?

350
1 ☐ Very safe
2 ☐ Reasonably safe
3 ☐ Somewhat unsafe
4 ☐ Very unsafe

b. How about DURING THE DAY – how safe do you feel or would you feel being out alone in your neighborhood?

351
1 ☐ Very safe
2 ☐ Reasonably safe
3 ☐ Somewhat unsafe
4 ☐ Very unsafe

CHECK ITEM B: Look at 11a and b. Was box 3 or 4 marked in either item?
☐ Yes – *ASK* 11c ☐ No – *SKIP* to 12

11c. Is the neighborhood dangerous enough to make you think seriously about moving somewhere else?

352 0 ☐ No – *SKIP* to 12
Yes – **Why don't you? Any other reason?** *(Mark all that apply)*

353
1 ☐ Can't afford to
2 ☐ Can't find other housing
3 ☐ Relatives, friends nearby
4 ☐ Convenient to work, etc.
5 ☐ Plan to move soon
6 ☐ Health or age
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* ____

(If more than one reason)

d. Which reason would you say is the most important?

354 _____ *Enter item number*

12. How do you think your neighborhood compares with others in this metropolitan area in terms of crime? Would you say it is –

355
1 ☐ Much more dangerous?
2 ☐ More dangerous?
3 ☐ About average?
4 ☐ Less dangerous?
5 ☐ Much less dangerous?

13a. Are there some parts of this metropolitan area where you have a reason to go or would like to go DURING THE DAY, but are afraid to because of fear of crime?

356 0 ☐ No Yes – Which section(s)? _____

357 _____ ← How many specific sections? – *If not sure, ASK*

b. How about AT NIGHT – are there some parts of this area where you have a reason to go or would like to go but are afraid to because of fear of crime?

358 0 ☐ No Yes – Which section(s)? _____

359 _____ ← How many specific sections? – *If not sure, ASK*

14a. Would you say, in general, that your local police are doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job?

360
1 ☐ Good
2 ☐ Average
3 ☐ Poor
4 ☐ Don't know – *SKIP* to 15a

b. In what ways could they improve? Any other ways? *(Mark all that apply)*

361
1 ☐ No improvement needed – *SKIP* to 15a
2 ☐ Hire more policemen
3 ☐ Concentrate on more important duties, serious crime, etc.
4 ☐ Be more prompt, responsive, alert
5 ☐ Improve training, raise qualifications or pay, recruitment policies
6 ☐ Be more courteous, improve attitude, community relations
7 ☐ Don't discriminate
8 ☐ Need more traffic control
9 ☐ Need more policemen of particular type (foot, car) in certain areas or at certain times
10 ☐ Don't know
11 ☐ Other – *Specify* _____

(If more than one way)

c. Which would you say is the most important?

362 _____ *Enter item number*

15a. Now I have some more questions about your opinions concerning crime. Please take this card. *(Hand respondent Attitude Flashcard, NCS-574)* **Look at the FIRST set of statements. Which one do you agree with most?**

363
1 ☐ My chances of being attacked or robbed have GONE UP in the past few years
2 ☐ My chances of being attacked or robbed have GONE DOWN in the past few years
3 ☐ My chances of being attacked or robbed haven't changed in the past few years
4 ☐ No opinion

b. Which of the SECOND group do you agree with most?

364
1 ☐ Crime is LESS serious than the newspapers and TV say
2 ☐ Crime is MORE serious than the newspapers and TV say
3 ☐ Crime is about as serious as the newspapers and TV say
4 ☐ No opinion

16a. Do you think PEOPLE IN GENERAL have limited or changed their activities in the past few years because they are afraid of crime?

365 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

b. Do you think that most PEOPLE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD have limited or changed their activities in the past few years because they are afraid of crime?

366 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

c. In general, have YOU limited or changed your activities in the past few years because of crime?

367 1 ☐ Yes 2 ☐ No

▶ INTERVIEWER – *Continue interview with this respondent on NCS-3*

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U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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USER EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

An Introduction to the National Crime Survey

Analytic Report SD-VAD-4

Dear Reader:

The Criminal Justice Research Center and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration are interested in your comments and suggestions about this report. We have provided this form for whatever opinions you wish to express about it. Please cut out both of these pages, staple them together on one corner, and fold so that the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration address appears on the outside. After folding, use tape to seal closed. No postage stamp is necessary.

Thank you for your help.

1. For what purpose did you use this report?

2. For that purpose, the report— ☐ Met most of my needs ☐ Met some of my needs ☐ Met none of my needs

3. How will this report be useful to you?

- ☐ Teaching material
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- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____
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4. Which parts of the report, if any, were difficult to understand or use? How could they be improved?

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6. Can you point out any specific statistical techniques or terminology used in this report that you feel should be more adequately explained? How could these be better explained?

7. Are there ways this report could be improved that you have not mentioned?

8. Please suggest other topics you would like to see addressed in future analytic reports using National Crime Survey victimization and/or attitude data.

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